FBIS DAILY REPORT

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PRESIDENTS, OFFICIALS ADDRESS ECONOMIC MEETING

Betancur on Continuing Crisis

PA141536 Quito Domestic Service in Spanish 1605 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Speech delivered by Colombian President Belisario Betancur at the Latin American Economic Conference in Quito -- live]

[Excerpts] Unlike many other parts of the world, the heads of state in Latin America very seldom have the opportunity to meet.

What are the characteristics and causes of and solutions to the Latin American crisis? In order to make a rough assessment, we must listen to the opinions of experts. The enormous disproportion of the magnitude of our debt when compared to our means and ability to pay is almost an insoluble aspect of the current crisis, which deeply worries the governments of the region.

The current crisis has some things in common with that of the 30's, but today's crisis bears new characteristics: the growing importance of the developing countries, the rate of energy consumption, the obsolescence of some industrial activities in the north, the high level of international debt, and the insane arms race.

We have gone through a transitional period in the world's economy involving structural changes in international labor. For Latin America, this is a key issue. The World Bank recognizes some of our countries as semi-industrialized. We are already competing in the demanding foreign markets for manufactured goods. We have diversified our economy. We must promote our agricultural and industrial development, because without a flexible supply of food and raw materials it is impossible to maintain sustained development. This explains why the agricultural revolution, which preceded the industrial revolution, is now beginning to slow down in the face of new technologies and computer science.

For the next 10 years, industrial development will require commercial integration and access to the markets of the north. In this regard, an examination of the GATT indicates that it has been unable to prevent the industrialized countries' trend toward protectionism. We must admit that we have been somewhat shortsighted, in that we almost abandoned [word indistinct] inter-American commerce as a means of absorbing the effects of international recession.

Despite these difficulties, Latin America has a bright future. We need only recall the views of Professor (James), 1973 Nobel Prize winner, who indicated in a study on the future of the world's economy prepared for the United Nations that the Latin American region has the necessary human and natural resources to double its standard of living over the next 2 decades. This goal is not utopian. However, it is absolutely necessary that we establish the conditions to permit adequate trade terms for our foreign sector; reasonable financing conditions, in terms of time and interest rates; and access to the international market to obtain capital in long-term loans so that we may more intensively exploit our energy resources, just as the President of the Dominican Republic was saying.

It is obvious that financially sound projects will reduce the banks' risks and that they will therefore charge lower commissions and interest rates. It is also obvious that development is not possible with short-term loans. During the decade of the 30's, the United States obtained 30-year loans at very low interest rates. We recall that Truman and Marshall defined the reconstruction plan for Europe, which received $150 billion in only 3 weeks.

Therefore, let us cling to the hope that the leaders of the north will, here and now, take rapid action to defend the world's economic stability and will provide solutions for the developing countries, because both debtors and creditors are in the same boat. The course to be taken and the ability to steer the boat depend upon the pilots -- in this case, the heads of state. The challenge is to take advantage of the economic and social investments that we have already made. If our debt is the result of our effort to expand our productive capacity, this effort should also give us the ability to finance development.

One of the big mistakes that we made during the crisis was to hastily close our borders to trade. We were all guilty of this. This why we should, as has already been proposed, implement a plan to liberalize the region's market. For this to be possible, the region must have new mechanisms for compensation and financing that will permit us to take care of the [words indistinct], as President Belaunde proposed, a monetary account to allow the use of foreign exchange to pay for goods and services that are not produced in our region.

On the other hand, in contradiction to what has been proposed, I feel that if, within the suggested mechanism, a country needed more or less extended credit, it should not be attached to conditions, as the IMF is mistakenly doing. It should not be linked to a macroeconomic program of [word indistinct] instead, it should automatically [word indistinct] in the countries with surpluses the obligation to reduce tariff and administrative barriers to countries with deficits still more and to suspend any subsidy on exports. We must insist that these processes be automated.

The efforts to achieve integration have been characterized by lack of authority to determine if any given party has failed to live up to its commitments, and a lack of the necessary power to see that they are complied with.

Ladies and gentlemen, ministers, ambassadors, representatives of international organizations, my presence in Quito is not merely a matter of protocol or of rhetoric; it expresses my belief that we are facing a serious crisis, which we can overcome only if we act together. I am convinced that it is not just a matter of common cause in facing the industrialized countries and international loan institutions; we must submit practical and feasible plans for facing various situations, and proposals that may seem (?intrusive), but which are realistic. It is right that we demand a more equitable treatment, but it is not right to blame others exclusively for our problems and to expect these problems to be solved by a stroke of good fortune. If there is one thing that we should learn from this crisis, it is the need to depend upon our own capacity to overcome it; to renew and stimulate mutual trust among our peoples so that we can show the world that Latin America, the fatherland of Liberator Bolivar, is united in seeking solutions, so that it may face up to its destiny and its history.

Monge Stresses Regional Vision

PA141716 Quito Domestic Service in Spanish 1628 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Speech delivered by Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge at the Latin American Economic Conference in Quito, Ecuador -- live]

[Excerpts] I was quite enthusiastic about coming to this inaugural meeting of the Latin American Economic Conference, and I have supported from the start this historic initiative undertaken by my esteemed friend, the Ecuadoran president, because I believe this meeting in Quito is highly important.

I have goverend my country during the worst crisis that Costa Rica has ever experienced. Nevertheless, our case has not been unique. In the last few years, Latin America and the Caribbean have been suffering the rigors of the integral disorder being experienced by the entire system of international economic relations. Perhaps there are differences of magnitude and in specific aspects characteristic of each nation, but the picture is the same in substance and in structure. The crisis has hit both large and small nations alike, irrespective of the economic development model or kinds of political organizations. That is why a regional and joint vision, such as that being sought in this Latin American Economic Conference, is important.

I have said many times in my country and I want to repeat here today before this eminent and representative audience that though the managing of the crisis is important, the essential thing is to turn the crisis into an opportunity, into a factor of democratic change. This is the essential thing. The peoples would never forgive us for any other course of action, because stabilization without economic recovery is just an illusion, and stabilization and economic recovery without social justice are a tragic deception of the great majorities and a historic contradiction in this hour of truth.

That is the greatest responsibility that the participants in this Latin American Economic Conference have. It is true that this crisis cannot be faced in an isolated way and that the unity of Latin America and the Caribbean is necessary. Large and small, rich and poor, those with or without energy resources, beyond differences in political models and social and economic organization, all of Latin America and the Caribbean have a shared and solidaristic obligation to face the crisis.

An exclusively economic approach would respond to only a part of the problem. The social dimension of the crisis demands a place alongside the economic variables, because deep down, at the point where economic and social aspects merge into one truth, the real political nature of the crisis emerges, not only within each of our countries or within the context of our efforts to issue a consolidated Latin American response, but primarily in the direction of our negotiations with the countries of the north and their institutions. If we do not understand it in this light, we will have advanced very little in Quito, even if we sign the best political declaration and the most serious plan of action.

Caputo Calls for Joint Action

PA131845 Quito Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Speech delivered by Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo at the Latin American Economic Conference in Quito, Ecuador -- live]

[Excerpts] Gentlemen: More than 150 years after most of our countries gained political independence, the truth is that we have not yet finished the struggle for its definitive consolidation.

In a world marked by profound inequalities among the various countries, we remain subject to many forms of dependence, which have placed conditions on our political capacity to choose and decide our own destiny. This conditioning frequently penetrated our nations, (?turning) into spurious connections with privileged domestic sectors, while our peoples suffered from backwardness, deprivation, and injustice. The perpetuation of this troublesome (?secular) international inequality is what is now being called the North-South conflict. In recent years, and against this backdrop of the North-South conflict, the political independence to which we aspire for Latin America and the Caribbean is being further undone by the crisis and the confrontation between the great powers. Unless there is determined joint action to avoid it, these threats will continue to undermine our states' autonomous decisionmaking capability. Thus, the East-West conflict is not alien to our territory. Unfortunately, our countries, like so many others, have in the past and continue at present to serve as fields in which this conflict is expressed in the most diverse way.

Today more than ever we must strengthen our joint actions to prevent all types of interference in our countries' domestic affairs. These kinds of interference range from the clearest and most direct forms of colonialism, as we Argentines have suffered in the Malvinas, to these new forms of penetration against which we have been less alert, but which also serve to render us pawns moved on some unfamiliar board by alien forces and for foreign purposes.

Argentina's democracy does not accept the trap into which the international financial system and the domestic financial minorities associated with it have placed us by generating this diabolical foreign debt. Our area's states have been used to harbor these groups of speculators, and the hemisphere's fate depends upon our emergence from this trap. Argentina's democracy places itself at the service of this struggle, aware of the fact that our enemies are not only on the outside but on the inside as well. In some cases they continue to hold positions that are marked by unacceptable privileges within our societies.

Today we are immersed in a profound crisis that affects international economic relations. The system of transactions with the central countries has been seriously altered. Most important, international financial mechanisms practically work to lead us to a dead-end road. Once again our countries are suffering from the most acute and pernicious effects of a situation that affects everyone. However, we have hope that solutions to these problems will finally be found.

Gentlemen, it is sad to admit that we live in a world that is marked by senselessness and irrationality. The wealthiest and most powerful countries have the capacity to destroy the earth we live on 10 times over. Yet, despite this kind of destructive power, those same countries have been unable to build a barely acceptable world for billions of human beings. Our forced deprivation should at least permit us to perceive the irrationality and foolishness of the powerful and to avoid what they do, thus preventing any arms race in our region and causing us to start to reduce our military expenses as soon as possible, so that we may use these resources to resolve our people's pressing needs.

We cannot be so arrogant as to assume that we have in our hands the capacity to resolve all of the world's problems. However, it would be criminal for us to fail to understand how much needs to be done and can be done to improve our regional situation.

Gentlemen, perhaps by dint of the circumstances, the counterpart to our current crisis will be the creation of an invaluable opportunity to finally turn the integration of Latin America and the Caribbean into a reality. Thank you very much. [applause]

Hurtado Urges Practical Solutions

PA132154 Quito Domestic Service in Spanish 1745 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Speech by Ecuadoran President Oswaldo Hurtado at the Latin American Economic Conference in Quito, Ecuador -- live]

[Excerpts] As a result of the austerity policies, the Latin American and Caribbean peoples in general have witnessed the stagnation, and in some cases the deterioration, of the living standards they had achieved after long years of struggle, work, and sacrifice. It is true that so far the region has managed to confront, without unresolvable traumas, the social and political consequences of the crisis. However, it is worth asking: How much longer can our peoples tolerate the consequences of the adjustments we have made? It is impossible to go on much longer planning on certain imports, which at times are essential, without further worsening the productive processes. After the huge investments made, factories, businesses, and fundamental infrastructure projects cannot remain paralyzed with the subsequent loss of considerable investments and of the corresponding job sources. In short, the peasants, the dispossessed, the middle classes, and the workers must see some hope in the future in order to continue participating in the huge task of economic recovery and the reestablishment of social progress.

Although this reality has been repeatedly pointed out in the past, the incidents of the past few months have allowed us to show empirically that by itself Latin America will not be able to overcome its current crisis. For example, it is worth recalling that the exceptional surplus that the region obtained in its 1981 trade balance, totaling $31.2 billion, was due to a drastic reduction of imports rather than to an increase in exports. To a large extent, this surplus served only to cancel the obligations contracted with the foreign banks.

Within this very negative international framework, the reactivation of the U.S. economy is undoubtedly both positive and encouraging, but the same has not happened to the economies of other developed countries. In fact, in the industrialized countries as a whole, the growth rate achieved in 1983 was lower than that of the first year of the crisis, and much lower than that of the preceding decade. Something similar has occured to the industrialized countries with centrally planned economies. If the predictions for 1984 are valid, it could well be asserted that the recovery of all the industrialized countries will take at least 2 years. This prediction is not exaggerated, if one takes into consideration certain negative factors, such as the stagnation of the oil-exporting countries' economies, the worsening of the crisis in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the decline in the growth rate of the recently industrialized countries. Under these circumstances, there are no sure signs that the still slow, fragile, and tentative economy will be reactivted in the short term, or that it will have sufficient force to promote the development of the hemispheric economies.

However, the economic reactivation of the North is not the only prerequisite that must be met in order to resolve the Latin American crisis. Even if the crisis were to be resolved, there are still pending problems, such as the need to redefine the cooperation policies of the IMF, the World Bank, and the IDB in accordance with the requirements posed by the crisis; the need to allocate long-term public resources to finance the recovery of Latin America and the Caribbean; and the need to solve the serious problem posed by the foreign debt, whose terms of renegotiation must reflect the real possibilities of the regional economies. It is worth remembering that these contracts were promoted by the international banks which, merely by raising the interest rates between 1979 and 1982, obtained extraordinary revenues totaling $49 billion.

This evidence and other structural developments show that we are faced with an unconventional and cyclical crisis, which is causing a profound and important mutation in the world economic system, and Latin America must necessarily be present when this system is redefined.

This is one of the reasons we are gathered here: to provide a political answer to a problem that has gone beyond the strictly technical area. Among those of us who promoted the intiative that culminates today with the various countries attending this conference, there has never existed a desire for confrontation, nor does it exist now.

On the contrary, there is willingness to seek concurrent paths with the industrialized nations, the cooperation organizations, and the international private banks. If interdependence is a phenomenon that dominates our foreign relations, it is necessary for all the parties involved in the crisis collectively to find reasonable solutions. The aggravation of this crisis will even affect the industrialized nations and their institutions. It is true that wars are still the phenomena which most seriously disturb peace, but unless the economic crisis in our nations is resolved, a new cause for grave social and political conflicts might be generated that would be destabilizing and inevitably would disturb the precarious world balance.

It is necessary to stress the very important qualitative change that has been felt in the developing countries. In addition to continuing to supply the industrialized countries with raw materials, they are at present major buyers of their exports. However, to the extent that our nations continue restricting our imports in order to correct our balance of payments deficits, we are contributing to a delay in the recovery of the developed countries and to an increase in the number of bankrupt companies and unemployed in their countries.

However, in the firm conviction that we must not only for ulate just demands but that in addition there is a lot that we can do in the region if we view the crisis as a challenge, [words indistinct] Latin American and Caribbean representatives at this conference in order to reassert our multilateral action and our belief in integration.

This cannot be a meeting like so many others, which will end with a mere declaration of good intentions. Developments in the hemisphere behoove us to find practical solutions, achievable goals, and programs that can be carried out. Let us be prudently bold with regard to the agreements we reach, if we want to meet the challenges posed by the dramatic current hour and our people's suffering.

Sepulveda Warns of Interventionism

FL132226 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0407 GMT 13 Jan 84

[By Mario Luis Altuzar (special correspondent)]

[Text] Quito, 12 Jan (NOTIMEX) -- Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda said here today that without social well-being, political stability is a pipe dream. He had earlier warned that the expedient of interventionism is reappearing.

The Mexican foreign secretary said that peace and development are indispensable and are reciprocally conditioned. Sepulveda is attending the Latin American Economic Conference (Celam), at which high-level Latin American and Caribbean officials are studying a joint plan of action to overcome the current economic crisis.

Referring to the Central American situation and the recent invasion of Grenada last October, Sepulveda said that there is a return to interventionist measures and military attitudes, which we thought had been overcome and which degrade the fundamentals of international coexistence. He added that in Central America, the real explosiveness that is produced by social backwardness and economic stagnation stands out.

He reiterated that the economic crisis and the political confrontation are aspects of the same crisis that weakens the foundations of international coexistence. He said that the most severe crisis occurred last year. Since the standard of living of the population declined by more than 5 percent and the deterioration of lifestyle fell by 9 percent, we are at the vortex of a very acute crisis.

He pointed out that these problems are becoming more acute with the protectionism that the great powers give their domestic markets and with the exclusion of more than 200 Third World products, including 55 Mexican products, from the U.S. Generalized System of Tariff Prefecences [Sistema Generalizado de Preferencias Arancelarias].

The Mexican foreign secretary urged that the dialogue between the rich and poor nations be reopened. He said that this conference, attended by representatives of more than 25 Latin American and Caribbean countries, could contribute to improving our negotiating capability. He added that in the face of the severe crisis, we are showing our political will, which allows us to channel its effects for cohesion and solidarity among nations, thus responding to the tradition of facing problems and overcoming them with unity. Feelings of frustration, skepticism, and lack of confidence are generated in the face of these problems, but at the Quito conference, these feelings are stifled by the willingness of the peoples and the governments to unite with one common goal: to overcome the crisis.

In the plenary session that took place today, beginning at 1600 local time, Commander Henry Ruiz, Nicaragua's minister of planning also participated. He said that our only capital is morale and recaptured sovereignty. The people themselves are power, and that capital, which we want to share with all the Latin American peoples, is not negotiable.

Rodriguez on Need for Dialogue

FL131412 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers, has urged the Latin American and Caribbean countries to fight for a dialogue with industrialized capitalist nations.

The Cuban leader spoke to the first Latin American Economic Conference being held in Quito, Ecuador. He stated that a dialogue must be sought and that confrontation must be avoided, but that we must understand that we cannot have dialogue without fighting for it first. He warned that Cuba will not only promote this struggle but will be present in it with full responsibility, assuming all risks.

The Cuban Vice President noted that with this same willingness to fight we must face the debt problem, which he said amounts to $110 billion. He said that this problem must be approached within the framework of a process of mutual and indispensable concessions. He explained that the only sensible policy so that Latin America can pay is through continuous development, promoted by a flow of foreign financing under adequate conditions.

The proposed task is not easy, he explained, and cannot be solved with mere declarations. It is a process of struggling for goals which have been unattainable so far within the framework of a simultaneous effort to plan the integration. Rodriguez said that it is not only a task that concerns the governments because the people are needed, too, and to count on the people's support the conditions of Latin America and the Caribbean must change. Without the peoples, our political and economic struggle can be carried out neither at home nor abroad.

He added that although Cuba is not a country with a stagnant economy, it is facing pressures and difficulties imposed by the most powerful imperialism of all times, but despite this, we are making progress, he stressed.

After condemning the irresponsible militaristic policy of the Reagan administration in Europe, as well as in Central America, he emphasized that the Contadora Group's desire for negotiations must prevail in order to guarantee to all Latin American and Caribbean countries the right to live under the economic, political, and social system each nation wants. According to Rodriquez, to obtain this peace, based on mutual respect and the sovereign determination of each nation, Cuba is willing to assume responsible commitments and devote its efforts to them.

ECONOMIC DECLARATION ISSUED; 30 NATIONS TO SIGN

PA140607 Paris AFP in Spanish 1939 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] Quito, 13 Jan (AFP) -- The Latin American Economic Conference has agreed to call on creditors to be jointly responsible for solving the problem of the region's foreign debt. The conference stated that only by means of flexible and realistic criteria that are compatible with recovery "will it be possible to guarantee the continued servicing" of the debt.

In its political section, the Quito declaration makes "a formal appeal to the leaders of industrialized nations to note the seriousness of the region's economic situation, its high social cost, and the urgent need to participate in measures to confront the crisis directly through their governments and through international organizations."

The document, which includes a plan of action with measures to face up to the regional emergency, will be signed at 1800 (2300 GMT) today in the Quito Government Palace by the heads of state or government and the personal representatives of the leaders of some 30 nations.

AFP learned from reliable sources that in a 27-point document, the Latin American leaders reiterate "the urgent need to adopt measures designed to reform the international monetary and financial system," and state that along with a worsening of financial problems, "we are faced with a stagnation and even a regression of world trade levels."

The Quito declaration also emphasizes "the urgent need for industrialized countries to refrain from imposing new protectionist barriers and to proceed with eliminating those that already exist." AFP's sources said that the document, which has been submitted for final editorial correction, states that "actions designed to limit access to markets and to restrict the scope of the general system of preferences must be reversed." In addition, it notes the close and inseparable link that exists between foreign trade and international financing, and indicates that "only a joint management of the two factors that will, among other things, allow our countries to increase their payment capacity -- a capacity to which debt servicing must be adapted -- will contribute to a positive solution to the problem of foreign debt."

After identifying the causes of the emergency, the document states that "Latin America and the Caribbean are facing the most serious and most profound economic and social crises of the present century, one that has singular and unprecedented characteristics." In view of this, the leaders express "to the international public our deep concern over the prevailing conditions of the world economy that seriously affect the region's development and stability."

The document states: "The crisis demands prompt solutions through joint actions based on regional cooperation and the establishment of common positions designed to strengthen the region's capacity for response." This response is based on the need to "complement the efforts made by each country and those made at the subregional level to enhance regional cooperation and integration," and "requires the firm and resolute participation of all national sectors."

The leaders reaffirm "the brotherhood and solidarity of our peoples and their aspiration to live within the framework of democratic principles," and reiterate their "respect for the sovereign right of the Latin American and Caribbean nations to follow their own paths in the economic, social, and political spheres in peace and freedom, without any type of foreign intervention."

In addition, they pledge to "definitely eliminate the threat or the use of force in the solution of conflicts," and issue a call for disarmament, stating that "without peace, development cannot be achieved, and without development, peace will always be precarious."

They express their concern over the worsening tensions in the world, and state that "Latin America and the Caribbean refuse to be the scene of foreign confrontations and believe that problems can and should be solved where they arise."

"We also reject," they add, "the interventionism that has had recent and dramatic manifestations in the region, and we note the need to find a negotiated solution to Central America's problems, the origins of which are in the economic, social, and political conditions that prevail in the area. To this end, we extend our complete political support to the Contadora Group."

The document also mentions that efforts are being made "to attain and maintain a high level of energy self-sufficiency, with technological autonomy," and notes the importance of supporting OLADE in the attainment of its objectives.

Finally, the leaders request that Ecuadoran President Osvaldo Hurtado, the organizer of the conference, formally send the Quito declaration to the appropriate regional and international organizations, since the response to the crisis is contingent on the area's negotiating efficiency and the seriousness with which those institutions carry out the duties entrusted to them.

POST-CONFERENCE COMMENTS BY PARTICIPANTS

Hurtado on Summit Success

FY141630 Paris AFP in Spanish 0047 GMT 14 Jan 84

[Text] [Passage indistinct] Latin American Economic Summit, adding that copies of the Quito declaration will be sent to all American governments and to international organizations.

Hurtado, who promoted the initiative that resulted in the economic summit, noted that the initiative promoted by Ecuador, that Latin America should jointly confront its economic crisis, ends with the holding of this conference, and that in the future, it will be up to regional organizations to implement those agreements included in the Quito declaration.

Asked about a paragraph of the declaration that notes that each country must renegotiate its foreign debt on an individual basis, Hurtado said that according to specialists, it is impossible for all countries to jointly renegotiate their foreign debts. He added that each country faces individual foreign debt situations and have different economies, and that therefore, the most that could be done is to establish guidelines and leave it up to each country and its authorities to make the proper sovereign decisions.

According to Hurtado, the conference has surpassed the expectations of Latin American governments since the negotiations have been carried out with political maturity "which is the new way in which Latin America and the Caribbean act."

Hurtado said: The summit has been a complete success, and we believe that the programs will be carried out and that they will be implemented to the extent possible. He noted: Rapid consensus was achieved because countries in the region are facing common problems. This is not just merely another declaration, it will be implemented because it is a political decision of all Latin American governments. He admitted however, that the economic recovery of the region will be very slow in view of the problems it is confronting, but he predicted that the first results will be seen in the next few months, even though the summit would have faded into history, and it will be implemented over the specified term.

The Ecuadoran president noted that in keeping with the Quito declaration, the heaviest responsibility of implementing the agreements included in the declaration will fall on the Latin American Economic System (SELA).

He said, however, that all regional and subregional organizations, in their respective areas, will also be entrusted with implementing the agreements that have been signed and which, moreover, have helped to strengthen these organizations.

Answering a question, Hurtado noted that regional territorial conflicts and ideological-political problems were not discussed since this would have impeded the achievement of a consensus and the unity of the region. He said: Therefore, I called the economic summit, but I requested that these issues be left aside. "These problems should be discussed in other forums."

Without going into detail on the issue, Hurtado presented his excuse to a large local and international press entourage since "because of reports about possible terrorist attacks," they were not allowed to enter Government House where Hurtado held a meeting yesterday with the highest-ranking authorities.

According to a rumor that circulated in the hotel where the conference was held, the Peruvian terrorist group Shining Path was planning to carry out an attack against Peruvian Vice President Fernando Schwalb and against Colombian President Belisario Betancur, and therefore, stricter security measures were enforced.

Ruiz on Document, Intervention

PA141850 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 14 Jan 84

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Henry Ruiz, Nicaraguan planning minister, in Quito, Ecuador, to attend the Latin American economic conference, has described the conference's Quito Declaration as a highly positive document and stressed the fact that the conference expressed support for the Contadora Group's efforts to secure peace in the region.

On the situation in Nicaragua, Commander Ruiz said that the danger of intervention still exists, and that attempts to provoke incidents between Nicaragua and Honduras are continuing. Commander Ruiz noted that new combined maneuvers are now being planned by the U.S. and Honduran Armed Forces for the purpose of intervening in Central America. He added: It is ridiculous to claim that Nicaragua is prepared to challenge the United States, for we have neither an air force nor a navy; what we actually said was that in case of an invasion, we will defend every inch of our territory to the last man.

Rodriguez on Kissinger Report

PA140638 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0241 GMT 14 Jan 84

[Text] Quito, 13 Jan (EFE) -- Cuban Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez said today in Quito that the Kissinger report on Central America "will allow Reagan to continue deceiving the people in the upcoming U.S. election campaign." During a news conference, Rodriguez added that the report "will let him continue saying that the Central American situation represents a danger to North America."

According to the Cuban vice president, by proposing continued military support to some Central American regimes, the report envisages "the danger of reaching a much broader confrontation." Moreover, Rodriguez said that the document and the North American policy on the region try to "include the current confrontation in framework of the East-West conflict," even though they "have not been able to ignore the fact that the causes of the crisis lie in the socioeconomic situation" of the countries in the area. Rodriguez asserted that in this situation the efforts of the Contadora Group "are the only possibility to keep the negotiations going" among the Central American countries.

"Without Contadora the situation would have deteriorated even further," said the Cuban vice president, who is participating in the first Latin American and Caribbean economic conference, which will end today.

With respect to the conference, Rodriguez said that "important steps have been taken because it reflects a common Latin American feeling" with regard to the current economic crisis. The conference culminated in a regional agreement that sets forth common rules and demands in order to overcome the problems related to trade, the foreign debt, the exchange of essential commodities, and overall relations with the industrialized world.

In this regard, the Cuban vice president said that during the last few years his country has endured a serious "reduction in its income primarily because of the U.S. policy" of embargoing Cuban products." [quotation marks as received] However, he said, Cuba's economy has not stopped developing, and its gross national product is expected to grow 5 percent this year.

Finally, the Cuban vice president discussed the North American plan to install the radio station "Jose Marti," and asserted that in this regard "the level of the Cuban response will match the level of the aggression."

Rodriquez' Intervention Warning

FL141245 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Jan 84

[Text] In Quito, Cuban Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez has voiced our country's support for the final declaration of the Latin American Economic Conference, which ended last night in the Ecuadoran capital.

During a press conference held a few hours prior to his departure from Quito, the Cuban leader termed the meeting's final document as very positive. Carlos Rafael Rodriguez stated that the declaration explains the purpose of Latin American unity, as this is the first time that area countries have shown real political will to resolve the economic problems we are experiencing.

During the conference, the representatives of Latin America countries talked with the same language and expressed the same views before the crisis affecting them, he added. The Cuban vice president said the Quito declaration supports the Contadora Group, something with which he is in full accord because the Group is seeking peace in the region.

Rodriguez warned that an armed Washington intervention in Central America would have dramatic consequences because the entire region would be involved in a process of confrontation against the United States.

ALFONSIN, FOREIGN MINISTER RECEIVE U.S. SENATORS

PY152105 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 15 Jan 84 p 13

[Excerpt] (EM-DYN-NA) -- President Raul Alfonsin met with United States Senators Howard Baker and Charles Mathias yesterday to discuss, among other things, Argentine nuclear policy and the nuclear non-prolifieration Treaty of Tlatelolco as well as Argentina's foreign debt situation. Foreign Minister Dante Caputo, who only hours earlier arrived from Quito, Ecuador, where he attended the Latin American Economic Conference, and Central Bank President Enrique Garcia Vazquez were also present at the hour-long meeting with the U.S. delegation, the second to arrive here in the last 10 days.

Caputo later said that the president made it clear to the senators that "the viability of democracy in the region" depends on a solution to the foreign debt problems of Latin American countries and that Argentina's nuclear energy policy serves "strictly peaceful purposes". The foreign minister denied, however, that there was any discussion of arms sales to Argentina, saying the purchase of war material "is not a government priority."

The president also explained during the meeting, Caputo added, that "when a country's foreign debt represents two-thirds of its gross domestic product it is no longer a technical problem, but rather a political one."

Contacted by the HERALD, U.S. Senate Majority Leader Baker acknowledged Argentina's foreign debt problem was discussed with the President but added he was "not sure what we (the U.S. Government) can do" to help, since most of the debt is owed to private institutions and not to the U.S. Government. Baker said the U.S. is "anxious to help" Argentina but that the Reagan administration has "already agreed to increase its International Monetary Fund contribution" and little more can be done in this respect.

The senator also said it would be "desirable if Argentina joined" the Tlatelolco Treaty signatories, adding, however, that this is not a bilateral issue but rather one concerning the world community. Baker denied Argentina is considered a "nuclear outlaw state" by the U.S. and confirmed that U.S. arms sales to Argentina were not discussed with President Alfonsin.

Senators Baker and Mathias also met yesterday afternoon with Garcia Vazquez and Economy Ministry officials at the Central Bank and were reportedly supplied with detailed information on the Argentine foreign debt. The senators will return today to Washington aboard a special U.S. Air Force flight.

FOREIGN MINISTER RETURNS FROM QUITO MEETING

PY142207 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 14 Jan 84

[Excerpt] President Alfonsin held a meeting this morning with Foreign Minister Dante Caputo. The meeting which was held at the Olivos presidential residence, started at 0830, and an hour and a half later, Foreign Ministry Under Secretary (Hugo Golbi), Central Bank President Garcia Vazquez and U.S. Republican Senators, Howard Baker and Charles Mathias, joined the meeting.

It must be noted that Foreign Minister Dante Caputo returned to Buenos Aires at 0400 from Quito, Ecuador where he attended the Latin American economic summit which was attended by representatives from 28 Latin American and Caribbean countries.

Upon his arrival, Caputo noted that the declaration regarding the Beagle Channel that will be signed by Argentina and Chile on 23 January is not an agreement and even less a treaty, but rather a declaration that expresses the good will of the two parties involved. Caputo said that this declaration marks the start of the conclusive stage of negotiations, which specifically means that the parties will return to the negotiating table.

Asked about the foreign debt and about the possibility of creating a Latin American debtors' club, the foreign minister said: We uphold the need for harmonizing the policy of Latin American debtor countries, but this does not mean that a debtors' club should be created. Caputo added that each nation has a different foreign commerce policy and this creates different negotiating situations. Caputo also said that he will be leaving for Rome on Saturday to continue with the Beagle negotiations.

ATOMIC AGENCY WANTS 200-PERCENT BUDGET INCREASE

PY131505 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 12 Jan 84 p 11

[Text] (NA) -- The National Atomic Energy Commission (CNEA) has asked for a 200 percent increase in the organization's budget for this year, a request which was submitted to the Economy Ministry during a meeting yesterday between Finance Secretary Norberto Bertaina and members of the special Nuclear Energy Committee created by President Raul Alfonsin, which includes Foreign Minister Dante Caputo and Presidential Secretary German Lopez.

FORMER OFFICERS TESTIFY BEFORE FALKLANDS PANEL

PY132220 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 13 Jan 84 p 7

[Text] (NA) -- Retired Colonels Juan Mabragana and Alejandro Repossi appeared yesterday before the Armed Forces Supreme Council to testify on their role during the Malvinas war. Both of them could face the death sentence, as the joint forces commission which investigated the handling of the war charged them with having surrendered "while they still had the means of defending themselves, and without having received orders to that effect."

JUDGE DECIDES TO PROSECUTE MASON IN GIORGI CASE

PY152100 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 14 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- Federal Judge Luis Cordoba decided to prosecute retired General Guillermo Suarez Mason on charges of illegal association and illegal detention in connection with the disappearance of physicist Alfredo Giorgi in 1978. Suarez Mason, who was at the time commander of the I Army Corps, has been accused by Giorgi's family of having headed the anti-subversive "Task Force One," and of having had control over the clandestine detention centre known as El Olimpo, on the basis of reports supplied by exiled former federal police officer Rodolfo Peregrino Fernandez. Suarez Mason is to appear in court again on Tuesday.

There are several other officers involved in the Giorgi case as non-indicted suspects, including former President Reynaldo Bignone -- who is being held in connection with a separate case -- General Ramon Camps, Federico Minicucci, Rene Ojeda, and Albano Harguindeguy, the six members of the first two military juntas, Colonels Roberto Roualdez and Enrique Rospide, and Lieutenant Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin, among several others.

Ojeda, former chief of the federal police, was to have appeared in court yesterday but claimed he did not receive the summons. Marcelo Parrili, a lawyer from the Centre for Social and Legal Studies (CELS) and one of the attorneys working for the Giorgi family, said yesterday that former President Leopoldo Galtieri, who succeeded Suarez Mason at the I Army Corps, and Harguindeguy, who was interior minister at the time of Giorgi's disappearance, will also appear shortly before Judge Cordoba, pointing out that they both "had to be aware" of the Task Force's activities and of El Olimpo's existence.

Court Appearance Set

PY131835 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1425 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Jan (NA) -- San Martin Federal Judge Luis Cordoba has decided to try former I Corps Commander Carlos Suarez Mason in connection with the disappearance of Alfredo Giorgi. This information was provided this morning by Marcelo Parrili, lawyer of the Giorgi family.

Parrili also reported that Suarez Mason must appear in court on Tuesday at 0900 because "there is enough evidence to prove his guilt of the charges of illegal association and illegal deprivation of freedom which have been leveled against him."

V CORPS COMMANDER REACTS TO ACCUSED OFFICERS

PY140156 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1225 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] Bahia Blanca, 13 Jan (TELAM) -- The commander of the V Corps, Brigadier General Mario Aguado Benitez, has said that studies are being made to create a joint staff of the Armed Forces in Bahia Blanca made up of chiefs of the Army, Navy, and Air Force. This is part of a plan to reorganize the Armed Forces currently under study by government officials. Gen Aguado Benitez said this to the local press at his command headquarters.

On this occasion he said that it seems that it is now fashionable to accuse and to condemn prima facie those who held responsibility in the antisubversive struggle. He added that all the charges will have to be proven. He said: It is very easy to make false charges, but they must be proven. I have no proof that abuses were committed but the law will have the last word.

Regarding the situation of General Reynaldo Bignone, he said: I have great respect for him. We cannot forget that he institutionalized the country and gave perhaps the cleanest elections in Argentine history. He added: I am distressed for his situation, but I cannot fail to recognize the authority of the law. The law knows why he was arrested, and I hope that if Gen Bignone is not sentenced he will be given apologies and the moral reparations he deserves.

In relation to the aggressive intentions displayed in the last few days against officers who went to court to testify, the general said that these are irregularities which officials must prevent from occurring in the future. He added that in a state of law the ones who attack must also be judged. He said that the attacks are aimed at only one sector of the population, forgetting all the sufferings experienced by the country before 1976. General Aguado Benitez also said that the prestige of the Army is not at stake. In this regard he said that institutions are above men. In all institutions there are good, fair, and bad men, but unfortunately generalizations are being made accusing the military as an institution.

The V Corps commander emphasized that our enemies will never forgive us for having defeated subversion. He also said that Army members who committed abuses were punished. He recalled the case of an Army member who committed murder in Bahia Blanca and who was sentenced to life in prison. He commented that an outbreak of subversion could again take place and warned against being so blind as to support a campaign to discredit the Armed Forces.

Regarding General Ramon Camps, he said that Camps is being made responsible for remarks he has repeatedly denied making. He added: There is no reason for not believing General Camps, but words which are not his are being put in his mouth.

In reference to another matter, the general admitted that the V Corps has been upgraded and that there is a need for a policy to populate the Patagonia. He also said that the Army should be reorganized and that new equipment for the Army is necessary. He also commented that it is necessary to reduce the Armed Forces budget.

Summoned to Defense Ministry

FY140209 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2201 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Jan (TELAM) -- The Defense Ministry today reported that Defense Minister Raul Borras has prohibited military officers from making political remarks and has summoned the V Corps commander, General Mario Aguado Benitez, to his office. The announcement was made this afternoon by a Defense Ministry official who added that Minister Borras had contacted the chiefs of staff of the three services to inform them of his decision.

Asserts Subordination to Authorities

PY141830 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0312 GMT 14 Jan 84

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 13 Jan (TELAM) -- After holding an almost 2-hour meeting with the defense minister and with the Army chief of staff, Brigadier General Mario Aguado Benitez, the V Corps commander, tonight reasserted his complete subordination to the constitutional power.

After the meeting with Defense Minister Borras and with the Army chief of staff, which ended minutes before midnight, the Defense Ministry issued the following communique which is signed by the V Corps commander:

"In view of the impact that some paragraphs of an informal talk with the press in Bahia Blanca have had and the way in which they were interpreted, I wish to reassert what I have expressed today to Defense Minister Raul Borras.

"1) I wish to reassert my complete subordination to the constitutional power in this new stage that the nation has entered.

"2) I am convinced that justice is the proper path to elucidate any responsibility that those who may eventually be charged with a crime may have.

"3) Consequently, my words cannot be interpreted as being uttered with the intention of pointing out paths for criticizing the authorities who were elected, as I have already expressed, in what were perhaps the cleanest elections in Argentine history."

FORMER BUENOS AIRES MAYOR ORDERED ARRESTED

PY131510 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 12 Jan 84 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- Trial Judge Alfredo Olivan yesterday ordered the detention of former Buenos Aires Mayor Osvaldo Cacciatore and eight other former municipal officials, reportedly on charges of irregularities in the import of material for the Interama amusement park. By press time last night, police sources confirmed that court officials had delivered an arrest warrant at the former mayor's home, but Cacciatore had not yet been actually arrested.

Still at Large

PY152225 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 14 Jan 84 p 9

[Excerpt] (NA-DYN) -- Judge Alfredo Olivan said yesterday that former Buenos Aires Mayor Osvaldo Cacciatore was still at large, for the second consecutive day, and confirmed his ruling yesterday to the effect that Cacciatore will not be guaranteed exemption from prison if he presents himself in court. Cacciatore's defence lawyer Eduardo O'Gorman did not appeal the ruling. Cacciatore's arrest was ordered by Olivan on Wednesday night for alleged "administrative fraud" in the construction of the Interama amusement park and other public works. According to the judge, three of the several other former officials whose arrest he ordered along with Cacciatore's are still at large. The three still at large are former Government Secretary Juan Pirolo, former Public Works Secretary Guillermo Domingo Laura, and former Undersecretary of Urban Development Alfredo Maclaughlin.

JUDGE, CONGRESS ACT AGAINST EX-ECONOMY MINISTER

PY152145 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 14 Jan 84 p 9

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- Federal Judge Martin Anzoategui said yesterday that during the course of his investigation into the inordinate growth of Argentina's foreign debt, he has found enough evidence to impeach former Economy Minister Jose Alfredo Martinez de Hoz and his team. The judge submitted the case proceedings -- which include a lengthy Central Bank report on the foreign debt -- for study by President Raul Alfonsin and Congress, who must decide whether to initiate impeachment proceedings against the former officials.

The Lower House of Congress called on Alfonsin Thursday night to ban former economic policy makers from leaving the country while their conduct in office is investigated, following a Peronist motion to this effect. Cesar Jaroslavsky, head of the Radical caucus in the Lower House, yesterday said for his part that his party's legislators want to start a case that would imply Martinez de Hoz' "civil demise."

BILL ON CIVILIANS SENTENCED BY MILITARY PASSED

PY131500 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 12 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- The Senate last night unanimously passed the government's bill introducing reforms to the Penal Code, with only President Raul Alfonsin's signature now needed to turn into law a bill that would facilitate the annullment of military tribunal sentences passed against civilians.

Once the President signs the bill into law, civilians sentenced by military tribunals -- set up during the so-called "dirty war" against terrorism -- may be eligible for release from prison or may have their cases sent to civilian courts by appealing sentences with a writ of habeas corpus. Last night's unexpected Senate vote came after the Radical caucus requested the Justicialists to vote on the bill immediately. The draft law was passed, without any modification of the government proposal, after a three-hour debate which ended near 10 pm.

The Sentate also formally accepted the Military Code of Justice reform bill passed earlier by the Lower House, though debate on the draft law will not begin until next week. Justicialist Senate leader Vicente Saadi said the bill is "an unconfessed amnesty" of those involved in the "dirty war." Opposition to the Radical bill, coming from Justicialist and provincial party senators, reportedly centres around demands that the degrees of responsibility in the handling of the dirty war be eliminated and that the civilian appeal process to military court decisions be obligatory. The bill's clause on degrees of responsibility makes a distinction between those who ordered unlawful killings and torture of alleged terrorists, those who followed their superior's orders with excessive zeal, and those who simply followed orders. Prison terms of those found guilty in these cases would vary for each category, with the most severe sentences being handed to those having given the orders.

In the Lower-House yesterday, debate centred on the government's university reorganization bill, which would set up tripartite academic councils, and on a bill seeking the reopening of the University of Lujan.

Radical Deputy Balbino Zubiri said the House would also discuss projected reforms of Penal Code legislation on suspended sentences, repeated offences, and prisoner releases. Zubiri earlier in the day met with Caseros Prison inmates -- on a hunger strike in demand of their releases -- to reassure them the legislation would soon be passed. Radical caucus leader Cesar Jaroslavsky, meanwhile, said the government would soon initiate legal proceedings against former Economy Minister Jose Martinez de Hoz "and his gang" and seek legislation prohibiting the former minister from holding political office in the future.

Finally, the executive branch sent five new draft laws to Congress. The five bills seek: the creation of a National Education Council; congressional authorization for the President to leave the country during the year; a law punishing those who endanger bank or financial company assets or "who affect the credibility of the financial system; the modification of the current traffic law; and an salary increase for magistrates, and court officials. [quote marks as published]

INITIAL STEPS TAKEN TO TRY ALLEGED TERRORISTS

PY132219 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 13 Jan 84 p 7

[Text] (DYN) -- Prosecutor General Juan Octavio Gauna yesterday requested that the Interior Ministry provide his office with the criminal files of seven alleged terrorists so that court trials may be initiated against them. The alleged terrorists being investigated are Mario Eduardo Firmenich, Ernando Vaca Narvaja, Ricardo Obregon Cano, Rodolfo Galimberti, Norberto Perdia, Hector Pardo, and Enrique Gorriaran Merlo. Gauna is following the executive decree which also orders the trial of nine former military junta members. The Supreme Court, meanwhile, widened last Wednesday's ruling which annulled military tribunal sentences passed against civilians to include other specific, though not identified, cases.

EDITORIAL COMMENDS KISSINGER COMMISSION REPORT

PY140324 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 13 Jan 84 p 1

[Editorial: "The Rescue of Central America"]

[Text] The report of the Reagan commission on Central America, which was well received by President Ronald Reagan, presents conclusions which no doubt improve the attitude of the U.S. foreign policy toward the explosive area, and it recommends potentially effective measures to deal with the terrible regional crises. Having the strength of bipartisan support, the document did not lose its sense of realism in proposing a considerable amount of money in military aid to face up to the Soviet and Cuban intervention in the region; at the same time, it tried to get to the socioeconomic roots of the Central American problem, and pointed to the democratic model as the only acceptable one as part of a program of recovery to be launched "without losing time."

Economic aid is the backbone of the proposed plan, and to make it obvious that it is so, the report set a figure which speaks for itself: $24 billion (including U.S., European, and Asian resources) in order to generate until 1990 a minimum 3-percent annual growth rate in El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, and Costa Rica. This solution is similar to that of the successful Marshall Plan which, in this Central American version, especially emphasizes the "human and social dimension" of the dilapidated scene which has to be rebuilt. The report basically recognizes the conditions of poverty and backwardness in which the people have lived, only to see themselves now castigated by civil war, widespread violence, Marxist domination, and also by the absence of continental solidarity.

Quite correctly, the report also recognizes that success in the military arena will only be a fragile victory if rapid progress cannot be achieved on the political, economic, and social fronts. Authoritarian regimes and rightist dictatorships cannot be ingredients in the prescription to fight anarchy and communism, nor can they represent the best formula for promoting development. As former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger made very clear while presenting the report to the press, none of the proposals made implies a blandishment in the U.S. position toward the Marxist revolutionary center in Nicaragua, because this is not only a direct threat to the United States, but it has spread out toward the Panama Canal with an eye to ship traffic through the Canal. Quite the contrary, even direct armed action against Nicaragua is not ruled out. However, the need for a preventive policy must not be lost sight of, a policy which, acting beyond the center of the conflict, can in time neutralize the same tendencies which are, after all, responsible for the Cuban and Nicaraguan phenomena. Thus practically all of Latin America is clamoring for new priorities, and new criteria of evaluation and behavior on the part of Washington. Standards of democratic legitimacy, economic development, social justice, and real international economic cooperation should be the irreplaceable signposts on the road to be followed.

ARMED FORCES TO RECEIVE ADDITIONAL FUNDS

32.2 Billion Cruzeiros to Air Force

PY130145 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 12 Jan 84 p 7

[Excerpt] Brasilia -- President Joao Figueiredo yesterday signed a decree granting the Air Force Ministry an additional 32.2 billion cruzeiros.

These additional funds will be used to build new air bases in Rondonia and Roraima (11.2 billion cruzeiros) and to purchase 14 Bandeirantes transportation planes and two SENECA executive planes.

47 Billion Cruzeiros to Army

PY141715 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 13 Jan 84 p 3

[Text] Brasilia -- The Army is to receive a supplementary line of credit amounting to 47 billion cruzeiros, which will be used for manufacturing necessary materiel, especially 40 mm Boffors cannons, for equipping antiaircraft units and for manufacturing special types of munitions. The Army has also reported that this equipment is for the antiaircraft units that were created recently in Tres Lagoas and Brasilia.

A part of this line of credit will also be used in reequipping other sectors of the Army -- engineering, communications, electronics, and vehicles -- for the modernization of armored vehicles, the construction of barracks, and for the purchase of combat and health equipment. The Navy will receive an additional 20 billion cruzeiros and the Air Force will receive 31 billion cruzeiros.

RALLY HELD IN CURITIBA FOR DIRECT BALLOTING

PY131432 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] The first rally organized by the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] to endorse the direct ballot system was held yesterday in Curitiba. Nearly 40,000 people participated, paralyzing all activities in the capital of Parana State. Among those attending the rally were Governors Tancredo Neves, Franco Montoro, and Jose Richa. Also present were senators, deputies, prefects, and city councilmen, who took turns at the rostrum to endorse the direct balloting system. PMDB President Ulysses Guimaraes also spoke, saying that we are beginning with a winning start and that we are convinced that millions of Brazilians will be marching toward Congress calling for the direct ballot system. This popular demonstration was the largest held in Brazil since Pope John Paul II's visit.

THREE OPPOSITION POLITICIANS MURDERED IN ALAGOAS

PY130050 Paris AFP in Spanish 1832 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Maceio, 12 Jan (AFP) -- Three important PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party] politicians in the State of Alagoas, in the north of the country, were machine-gunned last Tuesday night in the city of Sao Jose de Tapera, 240 kms from Maceio. The killings were denounced by Jose Costa, president of the Alagoas PMDB, who reported that Joao Alves, Edevaldo Mello, and Welington Fontes were taken by surprise and machine-gunned by three men as they were eating supper in a restaurant in Sao Jose de Tapera.

Costa wired the justice minister and Alagoas State Governor Divaldo Suruagy repudiating the climate of violence now prevailing in Alagoas against the opposition politicians, and requesting prompt measures to arrest the assassins because, otherwise, the acts of violence will continue if these men go unpunished. Costa said that relatives of Welington Fontes held Pao de Acucar Mayor Elisio Maia responsible for ordering the killings, and that the gunmen are friends of that city's police chief.

FOREIGN MINISTER TO TRAVEL TO ROME 16 JANUARY

PY131836 Paris AFP in Spanish 1547 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Excerpts] Santiago, 13 Jan (AFP) -- A spokesman for the Chilean Foreign Ministry in Santiago today announced that Chilean Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle will travel to Rome next Monday to meet on 23 January with his Argentine counterpart and the Vatican mediators on the continuing dispute between the two countries over the Beagle area. Del Valle will travel with the head of the Chilean negotiating team, Colonel Ernesto Videla.

PEACE DECLARATION TO BE SIGNED WITH ARGENTINA

PY141330 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 14 Jan 84

[Text] The Argentine foreign minister has announced the signing of a declaration of peace and friendship with Chile. Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo has said that the two countries will sign a declaration of peace and friendship in the Vatican on Monday, 23 January. He added that the conclusive stage has been entered and that this is the last phase of the negotiations.

On 23 January the Chilean and Argentine delegations will meet in the Vatican before the mediator. The delegations of the two countries, headed by their respective foreign ministers, will hold a meeting, presided over by Cardinal Caseroli, Vatican state secretary and the pope's representative in the mediation process.

Caputo announced the signing of the peace and friendship declaration in Quito, where he is attending the meeting of the Latin American Economic Conference.

Colonel Ernesto Videla, head of the Chilean delegation to the papal mediation, has reported that the Chilean and Argentine foreign ministers will sign a declaration of peace, friendship, and fraternity in Rome on 23 January. Videla said that the joint communique will be released simultaneously in Rome, Santiago, and Buenos Aires. Videla explained that it will be a confirmation of the will for peace on the part of the two countries, but that it should not be confused with the peace treaty that is foreseen in the pope's proposal. Videla added that the document will be a response to the call for peace made by Pope Paul II on 1 January.

AD PLANS 13 RALLIES IN REGIONAL CAPITALS

PY142155 Paris AFP in Spanish 1440 GMT 14 Jan 84

[Text] Santiago, 14 Jan (AFP) -- It was reported here today that the Democratic Alliance (AD) has decided to hold simultaneous rallies on 30 March in 13 Chilean regional capitals to protest against the Pinochet regime. Mario Sharpe, a social democrat and president of the powerful organization, has stated that this decision was made at the highest level of the parties that make up the AD and that the objective of these rallies is to inform the Chilean people of the AD's economic and political plan for a transition government. The AD, which in 1983 actively participated in seven popular protests and in a rally that gathered 500,000 persons, is made up of parties and organizations including the republican right, Christian democrats, social democrats, and a socialist faction.

YOUTH MARCHERS TO REACH SANTIAGO 22 JANUARY

PY132335 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1615 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] The march of the Youth of the Fatherland [Patria Joven] is getting closer to Santiago as the days pass. The column coming from the south left Linares this morning and is now traveling on the Panamericana Sur Highway. This column is expected to arrive this afternoon in Talca, where the youngsters will spend the night.

The column coming from the north arrived yesterday in La Serena, where it will stay all day to rest after crossing the Atacama Desert. The youngsters from the north will leave La Serena tomorrow for Ovalle, where they will be arriving the same day. Demonstrations of affection for these youngsters are taking place all over and have become the main aspect of this march of the Youth of the Fatherland who will be arriving in the capital on 22 January.

GENERAL DENIES INTERVIEW WITH SPANISH WEEKLY

PY132210 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1429 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] Santiago, 13 Jan (EFE) -- General Gustavo Leigh, former commander of the Chilean Air Force, has denied that he granted the interview published by the Spanish weekly INTERVIU signed by Ruben Adrian Valenzuela, a Chilean journalist living in Spain.

The newspaper LE TERCERA, which today published Leigh's denial, sent a reporter to Rocas de Santo Domingo where the former member of the military junta is vacationing. The Chilean general said: "I have no recollection of such a magazine or of having granted an interview to that journalist last year."

General Leigh categorically said that "in any case, regarding the interview, I am absolutely certain that I did not make two of the points which appeared in it."

The general said that "the first point refers to a statement I reportedly made regarding General Pinochet's physical and mental state, and the second about how President Allende died." In this regard General Leigh said: "To those in the country who are well informed, it is absolutely clear that President Allende committed suicide. There would be no reason for me to refuse to recognize a fact which is already history."

Journalist Provides Recording

PY141445 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1615 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] The journalist who wrote the contested interview with General Gustavo Leigh Guzman has asserted that the interview with the high-ranking retired officer took place in September 1983. Journalist Ruben Adrian Valenzuela has sent a recording of the interview to "Diario de Cooperativa" [name of the newscast].

An EFE dispatch revealed that General Leigh had granted an interview to the Spanish magazine INTERVIU in which, when analyzing Chilean problems, the former commander in chief of the Air Force cast doubt on the mental health of the chief of state, General Augusto Pinochet.

General Leigh, in Santiago and through his press agent, denied that he had granted the interview, saying that no Spanish journalist had spoken with him during the past few months. In view of this controversy, "Diario de Cooperativa" had a telephone conversation with the journalist, Ruben Adrian Valenzuela, who confirmed that he had a series of professional meetings with General Leigh. Valenzuela revealed the first part of the interview. It is as follows:

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[Begin recording] [Question] [Words indistinct] for the magazine INTERVIU and the newspaper PUEBLO. This recording is going to be used for a series of articles on Chile. Are you in agreement [words indistinct] this recording, in addition to what we talked about [words indistinct], that it can be used?

[Answer] Yes, of course.

[Question] What is the current political situation in Chile and how are you participating in current political events?

[Answer] I term Chile's current political situation very serious. There is a self-appointed government, a government that has not been voted in, a [words indistinct] government that has led the country into one of the worst moral, political, social, and economic crises that the country has had during this century. Therefore, the situation cannot be considered otherwise [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Valenzuela added that this recording proves that the interview took place.

[Begin Valenzuela recording] Basically, this recording that you have just listened to proves that the interview took place and that it was emphatically authorized for the magazine INTERVIU. This interview was held in view of the September protests and it was held in several stages. I did the last part with a television camera, because it was my intention to give this interview with General Leigh to a televsion channel in Spain. [end recording]

For his part, INTERVIU's editor, (Ignacio Fontes), has said that Ruben Adrian Valenzuela has supplied sufficient evidence regarding the veracity of the interview.

[Begin (Fontes) recording] I believe that General Leigh wants to back away from the statements that he made. In other words, we learned, precisely through Radio Cooperativa, through (Celsio Campos), that a certain General (Luis Bunge) had denied these statements, but Valenzuela has given us enough evidence. And they have just read to me the LA TERCERA report that indicates that General Leigh does not deny them; he says that he does not remember. Then we have the questions that were put to him regarding his answers during the interview, which more or less confirm what he said during the interview. [end recording]

General Gustavo Leigh Guzman is currently vacationing in the summer resort of Roca, Santo Domingo, located on Chile's central seaboard.

BRIEFS

DROUGHT LOSSES IN SOUTH -- As a consequence of the long drought that has affected southern Chile since October 1983, losses in the agricultural sector amount to over $25 million. Hernan Follert, president of the Agricultural and Livestock Association of Osorno, has stated that 50 percent of the pastures have been lost. [Summary] [Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 10 Jan 84 p 13 PY]

FOREIGN MINISTER FINDS KISSINGER REPORT POSITIVE

PA131403 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0045 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] Bogota, 12 Jan (EFE) -- The Colombian Government has described the Kissinger commission report, which deals with the Central American crisis, as positive.

Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo, who is in charge of the presidency (President Belisario Betancur is in Quito), said that the Kissinger report "gives the impression of being a positive step," one which might mean a change in the U.S. attitude toward Central America.

Lloreda Caicedo added that a political and peaceful solution, as is eagerly being sought by the Contadora Group, formed by Mexico, Panama, Venezuela, and Colombia, will require socioeconomic solutions in order to maintain stability.

Lloreda also stressed that the commission's report "is a U.S. opportunity to develop a more stable policy" that will not react to situations or incidents that may take place.

He added that the commission adopted many suggestions made by the Central American countries themselves and also by the Contadora Group.

CONFLICTING STORIES ON VISIT BY CASTRO

COLPRENSA Reports Invitation

PA141918 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1802 GMT 14 Jan 84

[Text] Bogota, 14 Jan (EFE) -- The national press agency "COLPRENSA" reports that Cuban President Fidel Castro has been invited by the Government of Colombia to visit on an unspecified date.

According to the report, which has not been confirmed by the Foreign Ministry, Castro has accepted the invitation, the first received from Colombia in the 25 years of the Cuban revolution, in principle.

According to the same "COLPRENSA" dispatch, in conversations with author Gabriel Garcia Marquez, a personal friend, the Cuban presidency expressed his wish to visit some parts of Colombia, especially Cartagena de Indias.

The last time Castro visited Colombia, as far anyone knows, was in April 1948, when he was a student and when the famous "Bogotazo" incident took place in which liberal leader Jorge Eliecer Gaitan was killed.

Government Denies Invitation

PA151740 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1652 GMT 15 Jan 84

[Text] Bogota, 15 Jan (DPA) -- The Colombian Government has emphatically denied a report about a possible upcoming visit by Cuban President Fidel Castro, saying that it is not true that he has been officially invited to visit the country.

Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo said that the report carried by various radios and press agencies is totally groundless.

"We have not extended any official invitations to the Castro government," Lloreda Caicedo said, adding that "there would not be much logic in inviting a head of state to visit from a country with which Colombia has no diplomatic relations."

Asked about the chances that these relations, which were broken off by the former Colombian Government, may be resumed, the foreign minister admitted that the climate has improved, but warned that no decision on the issue has yet been made.

The report about Castro's visit, attributed to diplomatic sources, indicated that the Cuban leader would visit Cartagena in the company of Gabriel Garcia Marquez, a Nobel laureate for literature and his personal friend for many years.

The report was also based on a meeting held in Quito between President Belisario Betancur and Cuban Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez during the Colombian president's visit to the Ecuadoran capital.

The announcement of Castro's visit to Colombia evoked unrest in several public sectors because of the recent statement by General Gustavo Matamoros D'Costa, commanding general of the Armed Forces, against any possibility of rapprochement with Cuba, which he identified with the subversives in Colombia.

ARMY CLASHES WITH FARC IN CAQUETA DEPARTMENT

PA132255 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 7 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] A new clash between Colombian Armed Forces troops and a Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC] column in Caqueta Department has resulted in one guerrilla dead, two soldiers wounded, and the seizure of rebel military equipment and supplies. The Army reported that Cazadores Battalion troops clashed with a FARC column in Yarumal Bajo, San Vicente del Caguan jurisdiction. One rebel was killed, and soldiers Ramon Casamachin and Jairo Saguedo were wounded.

BRIEFS

EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS -- The National Statistics Department [Departamento Nacional de Estadisticas] has reported that Colombia's unemployment rate for 1983 registered 12.7 percent, as compared to 1982's rate of 8.9 percent. The labor force in the four major cities -- Bogota, Medellin, Cali, and Barranquilla -- rose by 10.42 percent, while new employment increased by 5.85 percent. [Summary] [Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 3 Jan 84 pp 1, 3 PA]

GEOLOGICAL INFORMATION BANK -- Bogota -- The Colombian Government has announced the creation of the Colombian Geological Information Bank [Banco di Informacion Geologica Colombiano], which will store computerized information on all aspects concerning the country's soil, subsoil, and suboceanic shelves. The Colombian Petroleum Enterprise, ECOPETROL, announced that nine scientific, technical and energy institutions will participate in the creation of the Colombian Geological Information Bank. These institutions are the Ministry of Mines and Energy, ECOPETROL, the Institute for Geological and Mining Research, the Colombian Mining Enterprise [Empresa Colombiana de Minas], the Colombian Coal Enterprise, the Nuclear Affairs Institute, the Colombian Uranium Enterprise [Empresa Colombiana de Uranio], the Andean Geophysics Institute, and the Agustin Codazzi Cartographic Institute. [Summary] [Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 6 Jan 84 PA]

PAPER CRITICIZES KISSINGER COMMISSION REPORT

PA140641 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 9 Jan 84 pp 1, 11

[Unattributed commentary: "The Kissinger Commission's Mistakes" -- uppercase denotes italics as published]

[Text] If the Nobel Peace Prize could be given for a second time to someone, Henry Kissinger would certainly not be an appropriate candidate. As head of a bipartisan commission, and after several months of work, the former U.S. secretary of state and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize during the 1970's has just completed a report containing long-term policy recommendations which, with a few exceptions, does nothing but endorse the Reagan administration's current approach, i.e., that the Central American conflict is part of the East-West conflict.

In contrast with this view are the efforts of the Contadora Group, which 1 year after launching its diplomatic efforts seems close to obtaining a commitment on the part of the Central American governments to seek a peaceful political solution to the problems.

Aside from the disagreements within the commission on continuing assistance to the counterrevolutionaries who are trying to overthrow the Sandinist government and on eventual negotiations with the Salvadoran guerrillas about their participation in elections, the commission's report resorts to impractical solutions.

First of all, it mistakenly assumes that the problem is part of the East-West confrontation. It is necessary to repeat once more, as the Contadora Group does, that the conflict is an inevitable consequence of age-old problems compounded by economic and social inequality in countries where the ruling classes, supported and coddled by U.S. Administrations, have not even been able to turn those societies into nations. To insist, as the Kissinger commission does, that the conflict threatens U.S. national security is basically nothing but an attempt to justify the policy of the Reagan administration: emphasis on the military option in order to CONTAIN the alleged Soviet-Cuban expansionism in the area.

The commission also errs when it proposes that military assistance be coupled with massive economic aid in the amount of $8 billion, suspiciously describing this as a NEW ALLIANCE FOR PROSPERITY AND DEMOCRACY. Didn't the Alliance for Progress of then President John Kennedy fail in the 1960's when Washington did not even imagine that there would be a Sandinist Nicaragua and insurgency in El Salvador? The key problem in Central America lies in achieving a political solution first and then formulating plans for economic development, not the opposite -- proposing economic aid as part of a strategy based on military aspects.

In the final analysis, the work done by the Kissinger commission seems to confirm the intention that President Ronald Reagan had when he appointed it: to get bipartisan endorsement of his policy on Central America. However, it remains to be seen to what extent he will obtain this endorsement, because Democratic presidential hopefuls have made this topic a campaign issue, and this will undoubtedly be reflected when Congress resumes sessions late this month.

DEFENSE FORCES PROTEST ACAN-EFE REPORT

PA130126 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 11 Jan 84 pp A-1, A-14

[Text] The Defense Forces of the Republic of Panama, through their Directorate of Information and Public Relations, have presented a formal protest against the ACAN-EFE news agency. The formal note says the protest is against information published in a local newspaper, which "tendentiously linked the Defense Forces of the Republic of Panama to a political activity recently carried out by the governing party."

The protest note was delivered to Aurelio Ali Bonilla, director of social communications media of the Government and Justice Ministry, by Major Edgardo Lopez Grimaldo, director of information and public relations of the Defense Forces. Ali Bonilla accepted the protest note and stated that the case would be investigated to ascertain responsibilities

Columnist on Protest

PA130313 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 12 Jan 84 p 1 A

["As of Today" column]

[Text] We can readily understand why the ACAN-EFE press agency has chosen the easy way out by "rectifying" to its readers that the dispatch -- which so greatly upset the Defense Forces -- about Ardito Barletta's presidential candidacy contained an "error in interpretation, which led to a distorted text." The so-called rectification does not rectify anything.

What was the error in interpretation? If there was an error that led to a distorted text, what is the correct version? This matter is too important to be glossed over. We acknowledge the press agency's reputation and the integrity of its sources of information; however, the truth of what really happened should prevail over any other considerations. In this case, it seems that instead of there being an interest in clarifying the facts, a deliberate attempt is being made to distort them.

Why does the military insist on meeting with political parties to discuss political issues regarding political candidates, in flagrant violation of the electoral law? Who represented the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), and which military officers were present at the Tinajitas meeting? Why was no previous announcement made of the meeting and its goals? What is the explanation for the miracle whereby Ardito Barletta, a presidential hopeful -- one of the many discussed at the stormy meeting -- became in Tinajitas the undisputed PRD presidential candidate?

It is not up to ACAN-EFE to answer these and many other questions that the meeting raised The country expects a prompt and formal explanation from General Noriega, who as commander of the Defense Forces is responsible for everything that happens within the force.

BRIEFS

COLOMBIAN VESSELS SEIZED -- Five Colombian vessels involved in illegal activities in Panamanian waters off Las Palmas, Darien Province, have been seized by the Navy of the National Defense Forces in the 9th military region. [Summary] [Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 4 Jan 84 p 24 PA]

COSTA RICA

MONGE: KISSINGER REPORT 'VERY SATISFACTORY'

PA130415 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] President Luis Alberto Monge has described the report submitted by the Bipartisan Commission headed by Henry Kissinger on assistance to the Central American countries as very satisfactory to Costa Rica. The president, who said that the Costa Rican people will see the text of the report in the next few hours, noted that Costa Rica consistently told President Ronald Reagan and the U.S. Government that paying exclusive attention to the military and security aspects that are tacitly involved in the Central American crisis would not lead to a realistic solution to the grave situation faced by the region.

Monge added that Costa Rica has warned that it is necessary to consider the social and economic aspects behind the crisis, which have generated its other ominous aspects.

GOVERNMENT TO PROTEST SANDINIST INCURSIONS

PA132223 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] According to reports from the Civil and Rural Guards, Sandinist soldiers have entered Costa Rica, raiding houses in Mexico, in the Upala sector, in violation of Costa Rican territorial integrity. The incursions -- which occurred at least twice last week -- prompted the National Security Council to ask the Foreign Ministry to file a formal protest with the Nicaraguan Government.

According to reports, armed Sandinist soldiers have broken into homes on the Costa Rican side of the border, apparently searching for counterrevolutionaries.

Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez said that a strong protest note will be sent to the Nicaraguan Government by Monday.

The Costa Rican delegation informed the Nicaraguan-Costa Rican Mixed Commission today of the incursion of Sandinist soldiers into houses in Mexico, in the Upala sector, in Costa Rican territory. Both the Civil and Rural Guards have confirmed reports by several residents whose houses had been raided by the Sandinists. Costa Rica hopes the Nicaraguan authorities will end these actions, because they do not in any way contribute to good relations between the two countries.

According to reports, without any valid reason the Sandinist soldiers crossed the border and not only entered Costa Rican territory but also raided several homes.

Meanwhile, based on a report submitted by the high-level commission that investigated the border incident at Tiricias, the State Security Council has determined that even though rockets fell in Costa Rican territory, Sandinist troops did not enter Costa Rica. It has been clearly determined that a clash between the Sandinist Peoples Army, EPS, and revolutionary forces under Commander Eden Pastora took place near the borderline, but inside Nicaraguan territory.

The investigation was made by the directors of the Civil and Rural Guards, a government attorney, and several officers following specific orders from the Security Council due to disagreements between the Security and Government Ministries.

The large number of rockets that fell in Costa Rican territory in the area of Tiricias, in San Carlos, resulted from the armed clash that took place near the border, according to the report and the conclusions of the Security Council. Based on these reports, it was decided that the Foreign Ministry should send a note to the Nicaraguan Government. Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez said it is impossible to ask groups involved in an armed clash not to fire rockets at the other side of an imaginary borderline. Therefore, it is not possible to send a protest note under these terms, as the Nicaraguan Embassy has done, by stating that anti-Sandinist groups had attacked the Nicaraguan Army from Costa Rican territory.

PLAN FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH IMF PREPARED

PA131555 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Excerpt] The plan to be presented to the IMF for the initiation of negotiations for an agreement with Costa Rica has been prepared by the Costa Rican Government. An IMF mission is expected to arrive by the end of January.

An announcement was made by Treasury Minister Federico Vargas this afternoon, in which he said that the plan includes a reduction in 1984 public expenses of 8 billion colones. This adjustment will permit Costa Rica to close the fiscal gap, as required by the IMF before it would discuss a new agreement.

EL SALVADOR

DEATH SQUAD-LINKED OFFICERS ASSIGNED ABROAD

PA131537 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 12 Jan 84 p 3

[Text] Major Aristides Marquez and Major Ricardo Pozos have been appointed to military posts in Salvadoran embassies, according to official sources. Major Marquez previously held the post of chief of intelligence with the National Police, and Major Pozos held a similar post in the Treasury Police.

Both military men, according to other reports, have been named by U.S. authorities as having links to the "death squads," but it is not known what evidence the United States offered the Salvadoran authorities. It has also been reported that other military men have been named to diplomatic positions.

GOVERNMENT ISSUES GUIDELINES ON ARRESTS

PA142141 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 12 Jan 84 p 12

[Communique issued by the Salvadoran Armed Forces Press Committee, COPREFA, on 11 January]

[Text] The Ministry of Defense and Public Security strongly condemns the kidnappings and murders by terrorist groups in our country. These criminal acts are aimed at belittling before the Salvadoran people and the world the government's and Armed Forces' efforts to wipe out terrorist organizations, right-wing or left-wing. We hereby warn these criminals that their inhuman actions will only serve to make us double our efforts to identify and destroy them, with the same determination with which each Salvadoran soldier defends his people.

We hereby inform Salvadorans and the world that the Armed Forces High Command, in order to guarantee individual freedoms, on 14 December 1983 ordered all military and public security corps to observe the following guidelines:

1. Public security forces must be wearing uniforms whenever they make an arrest. They will be allowed to make arrests while wearing civilian clothes only in special circumstances. In either case, they must identify themselves.

2. Military forces must be wearing proper uniforms in order to make arrests. They also must identify themselves.

3. The standing order is once again repeated that confinement is restricted to official detention centers.

4. Whenever an arrest is made, the Armed Forces general staff, the International Red Cross, the Human Rights Commission, or relatives of the arrested person must be informed as soon as possible.

5. The use of torture or any form of pressure to obtain information from prisoners is strictly forbidden.

6. We hereby demand strict compliance with the "guidelines for normal operating procedures" issued to commanders and directors of public security forces in May 1983.

The Armed Forces will continue to investigate criminal cases in which foreign nationals have been killed in Salvadoran territory. The Armed Forces once again warns citizens not to be misled by enemies of the fatherland and to give us any information that may contribute to identifying and eliminating terrorist groups, regardless of their origin or ideology.

[Signed] San Salvador, 11 January 1984

CAS Criticizes Directive

PA150406 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2351 GMT 14 Jan 84

[Text] San Salvador, 14 Jan (ACAN-EFE) -- The Salvadoran Anticommunist Command (CAS) today rejected the Defense Ministry order that "obliges military personnel to adopt procedures contrary to all known counterinsurgency doctrines." In a communique sent to a local newspaper, the CAS said that the fact that the "military corps are obliged to make all arrests while in uniform makes their struggle against subversion ineffective."

On 12 January, the Defense Ministry prohibited all military and public security corps from using torture or any other means of repression to obtain information from detainees. The Army High Command's order demands that all security corps members be in uniform when making arrests and that they make arrests dressed in civilian clothing only under special circumstances. However, they must always identify themselves and notify the International Red Cross, the Human Rights Commission, and relatives of those arrested. The CAS believes that advising the Red Cross of the arrest of subversives "gives the terrorist criminals combat status, unnecessarily granting them legal standing."

EDITORIAL DISCUSSES ARRESTS, KIDNAPPINGS

PA131415 San Salvador Radio La Voz Panamericana in Spanish 1815 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Editorial: "Orders That Are Not Fulfilled"]

[Excerpts] A U.S. press dispatch related to the disappearances and arrests of Salvadoran citizens:

The solid and strong structure that today forms the repressive apparatus continues to be enforced. It has not changed in any way. Statements made to satisfy U.S. public opinion are resources in a propaganda war. Another grave consequence may result: Arrests by heavily armed men dressed as civilians may increase, and the military will simply say that it is not responsible, because it is not allowed to behave this way.

Surely they are not deceiving anyone. The people know their aggressors. They know that the orders of the high command are orders that are not fulfilled. Repression is part of Salvadoran life.

REPORTAGE ON REBEL ATTACK ON CHALATENANGO

COPREFA Report

PA151536 Paris AFP in Spanish 1501 GMT 15 Jan 84

[Text] San Salvador, 15 Jan (AFP) -- Violent fighting shook the city of Chalatenango, 72 km north of San Salvador, when the FMLN attempted to occupy the city's garrison today. The attack by the rebels, who used a variety of rifle and artillery fire, was launched at midnight on Sunday. According to initial reports, the fighting lasted over 6 hours. The Armed Forces Press Committee (COPREFA) has confirmed the rebel attack, but declared that the "extremist action was thwarted" with swift action from the Army, which resumed control of the city at 0600.

As of late morning, telephone communications with all the northern areas of the region were out, and it was still not known how many casualties had resulted from the fighting.

The Chalatenango Garrison is located a few kilometers from the El Paraiso Garrison, the headquarters of the 4th Brigade, which only 15 days ago was occupied and partially destroyed in a bold rebel attack, which according to official reports resulted in more than 100 dead and 200 Army members taken prisoner.

COPREFA: 22 Army Casualties

PA151944 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1903 GMT 15 Jan 84

[Text] San Salvador, 15 Jan (ACAN-EFE) -- According to official reports, 7 soldiers were killed, 15 were wounded, and "numerous rebel casualties" were inflicted in this morning's rebel attack on the Chalatenango Garrison, 72 km from San Salvador in eastern El Salvador. The Armed Forces Press Committee (COPREFA) reported that the city of Chalatenango was the scene of fierce fighting for more than 5 and 1/2 hours, but now "is back to normal following an attempt by terrorist bands to occupy it." The official report added that "Army units repelled the attack, sustaining 7 dead and 15 wounded, while the numerous rebel casualties have yet to be established."

Meanwhile, a Mexican journalist was wounded yesterday during a clash between government forces and guerrillas in Tierra Blanca canton in the eastern Department of Usulutan. Arturo Gonzalez Mata, a sound technician for an independent television station, was wounded in the cross fire, but according to his fellow companions, his condition is not serious.

FMLN Reports Results

PA160231 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0100 GMT 16 Jan 84

[War Bulletin prepared by the "Radio Farabundo Marti Combat Transmissions Team" -- live or recorded relay]

[Text] We inform all our people that at 2400 on 14 January, units from the Commander Felipe Pena Mendoza and Rafael Aguinada Carranza Battalions initiated a harassment and attrition operation against the headquarters of Detachment No 1 in Chalatenango Department. This attack on that important enemy garrison was part of a large-scale revolutionary military maneuver within the framework of the FMLN national campaign, "All the People To Oppose the Imperialist Intervention Until Victory."

Our guerrilla units simultaneously attacked all 11 peripheral positions of the garrison's defense system, involving a total of 300 soldiers deployed around the puppet Army's garrison. Other units staged attacks with rifles and support weapons -- 90-mm cannon and .50 cal machineguns -- at the installations in which the Sierpe Battalion was lodged in the city of Chalatenango. At the same time, we attacked National Guard and Treasury Police forces entrenched at the following points: the El Limon turnoff on the highway between the town of El Paraiso and the Chalatenango departmental highway; the bridge over the Azambio River; the Motochico Bridge; and the La Merced Bridge. The enemy was dislodged from all these positions.

The attack on these positions being guarded by National Guard and Treasury Police forces was part of our maneuver to contain enemy reinforcements. It should be noted that the enemy revealed himself to be incapable of immediately reinforcing the Chalatenango Garrison. The reinforcements that the fascist high command sent via the highway connecting San Salvador and the departmental capital of Chalatenango were attacked and contained. We fought important battles on that highway, about which we will inform our people later.

With this harassment and attrition attack, the people's forces again placed themselves in the enemy rearguard in Chalatenango Department, 15 days after its overwhelming victory at the 4th Infantry Brigade headquarters in El Paraiso, in this same department. Once again the incompetence of the dictatorship's military chiefs has been revealed, as well as the ineffectiveness of the U.S. adviser's tactics. Despite the vast security apparatus around one of the last enemy strongholds in Chalatenango, our forces achieved their goal of attacking the enemy in his own garrison. We must also mention that since our victory over the 4th Infantry Brigade, the enemy has been maintaining patrols and setting ambushes around the garrison in Chalatenango. All the enemy efforts were in vain. Our guerrilla forces made a mockery of and neutralized the dictatorship's objectives.

We now report partial results on the fighting that took place early this morning in the city of Chalatenango. We seized from the dictatorship a total of 30 weapons, including 10 M-16 rifles, 14 Czech rifles, 3 carbines, 1 M-60 machinegun, and 12 shells for the 90-mm cannon.

We took four prisoners from the troops of Detachment No 1. The guards at the prison were also taken prisoner. When we broke into the prison, we released 52 prisoners as a gesture of repudiation of the dictatorship's corrupt judicial system.

Other results are as follows: Our forces occupied an important sector of the city of Chalatenango, the departmental capital. We occupied the Fatima, (Cayahuanca), and La Sierpe neighborhoods, as well as several blocks of the (El Cine) neighborhood, all of which are inside the city limits. We also broke into and occupied the prison, with the previously noted results. We will report later on other results of the fighting on the road between the town of El Paraiso and the city of Chalatenango.

The enemy has sustained 30 casualties. This operation, in the enemy rearguard in this department, constitutes another ovewhelming FMLN victory. The dictatorship will not be able to conceal this new political and military defeat by distorting information.

Long live our campaign "All the People To Oppose the Imperialist Intervention Until Victory!" United to fight until the final victory! Revolution or death!

[Signed] Commander Salvador Guerra, Commander Octavio Martinez

Chalatenango, 15 January 1984

COPREFA REPORTS 11 REBELS KILLED IN ACTIONS

PA141936 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Communique issued by the Salvadoran Armed Forces Press Committee, COPREFA; date and place not given]

[Text] Eleven extremists belonging to the FMLN were killed yesterday in various areas of El Salvador. Patrols from the Armed Forces Engineers' Training Center in Zacatecoluca surprised extremist columns in the village of San Carlos Lempa, in the jurisdiction of Tecoluca, San Vicente Department, and in Agua Zarca, in the jurisdiction of Zacatecoluca, La Paz Department. Three extremists were killed in the first clash and four in the second.

Members of military detachment No 5 in Cojutepeque also clashed with a group of extremists in Michapa, in the jurisdiction of Santa Cruz Michapa, Cuscatlan Department. One terrorist was killed and four homemade bombs were confiscated. The Armed Forces suffered no casualties in these actions. Three terrorists were killed and three were wounded when the dynamite that they were planning to place on an electric power pylon exploded near San Nicolas, in the jurisdiction of Santa Cruz Michapa, Cuscatlan Department.

COPREFA REPORTS NINE FMLN DEFECTIONS

PA142048 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 14 Jan 84

[Communique issued in San Salvador by the Salvadoran Armed Forces Press Committee, COPREFA; date not given]

[Text] Nine more members of the FMLN have left that guerilla organization. Nine terrorists presented themselves yesterday at two garrisons in the eastern part of the country, expressing their desire to give up the armed struggle in which they had been forced to participate because of the FMLN's pressure.

Seven of them presented themselves to the Cuscatlan Battalion in Ciudad Barrios, along with their weapons, which they had concealed. The other two presented themselves to the Atonal Battalion at the turnoff to the village of Tres Calles in the jurisdiction of San Agustin, Usulutan Department. They turned in two FAL rifles, ammunition clips, and ammunition.

When questioned, the guerrillas stated that many FMLN members wanted to escape, despite the fact that they have been deceived by the FMLN leaders about the Armed Forces. They now feel safe and secure.

Meanwhile, three terrorists were killed yesterday afternoon when surprised by a patrol from the Jiboa Battalion, 5th Infantry Brigade. A clash ensued in the canton of San Jacinto La Burrera, in the Santa Clara jurisdiction of San Vicente Department. Two M-16 and F-15 rifles were seized, along with ammunition. The Armed Forces reported one soldier dead and another wounded in this action.

FMLN REBELS ATTACK FARM, KILL THREE CHILDREN

PA130448 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Communique issued by the Salvadoran Armed Forces Press Committee, COPREFA; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] The eastern sectors of the country, especially the northern areas of Morazan and San Miguel, are experiencing an increase in the terrorist tactic of mass youth kidnappings. The FMLN has implemented this tactic to reinforce its depleted ranks and because it is not getting the support of the people. The young peasants are persecuted by the extremists and forced to join their camps and carry out criminal actions. Some of the youths have been able to escape and have stated that if caught they will escape again because they do not wish to fight against the people. This was recently stated by a group of youths who presented themselves to the 5th Infantry Brigade in San Vicente.

Three Children Killed by Extremists

Early yesterday morning three children were killed during an indiscriminate terrorist attack on Hacienda Atiocoyo, San Pablo Tacachico Jurisdiction, La Libertad Department. The children, between 10 and 15 years of age, whose identities are still unknown, were killed by a 90-mm [as heard] grenade launched by the FMLN attackers. The attack was repelled by the members of the area's civil defense, supported by a group of soldiers of the Artillery Brigade who were working in the area. They forced the terrorists to withdraw. In addition to the three children killed during this extremist action, two civil defense members and a soldier were wounded. This is not the first time the FMLN extremists have attacked a farm that has been given to the peasants as part of the agrarian reform program.

REBELS STAGE UNSUCCESSFUL ATTACK ON DAM

PA141940 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] Last night, leftists attacked the soldiers guarding the 15 September hydroelectric plant, better known as the San Lorenzo Dam. The reports issued by military sources in the area indicate that the guerrillas fired on the military positions around the dam for about 2 hours, but the attack was immediately repelled and the extremists were forced to flee.

The reports indicate that this has been the first harassment attack on the troops guarding the dam since the artillery attack on the dam and the Cuscatlan Bridge staged by the guerrillas on 1 January. The Armed Forces did not sustain any casualties in last night's attack.

FARABUNDO MARTI SCORES KISSINGER RECOMMENDATIONS

PA131410 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Henry Kissinger's recommendation to insane President Ronald Reagan is to intensify the war and the genocide against our peoples. Kissinger's and Reagan's only problem thus far is that the people and Congress of the United States are not supporting them in this insane race to subdue poor and small countries.

These macabre personalities of international politics are boasting that respect for human rights is a condition for granting multimillion dollar military aid to the dictatorship's demoralized Army. However, these professional advocates of genocide and submission policies do not want to recognize that bombs, planes, mortars, and rifles made in the United States are being used every day to kill our people.

U.S. diplomats lie when they say that they support Contadora Group peace efforts. While the governments of these countries are seeking a regional and peaceful solution to the problems of Central America, the hawks in the Pentagon are planning new joint military maneuvers in Honduran territory along the border with our country and Nicaragua. While the Yankees talk of peace and democracy in the region, they are planning to increase by more than 200 percent military aid to Alvaro Magana's moribund regime and to his band of paid assassins, members of the death squads.

In the history of mankind, the Yankees have always lied to our people. They claim to support free elections in El Salvador, but they do not say that these elections will establish the legal conditions to send U.S. Army troops to our country. Democratic and progressive peoples and governments of the world reject this policy of war and submission that is being waged against the peoples of Central America. The Yankees want to subdue by blood and fire all the peoples who proudly decide to choose a path that is not that of submission to imperialist insolence.

Our people, led by the FMLN, have proposed a political solution to the war, but the Yankees, the oligarchy, and the stubborn top military commanders refuse to accept the rights gained by our people in arms. New battles are shaping for the future. Our people will obtain new victories. Our people are marching with the firm determination to obtain their freedom, independence, and dignity.

Against the dictatorship and imperialist intervention. The peoples unite for victory!

VENCEREMOS REPORTS SHELLING OF HONDURAN TOWN

PA140643 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 14 Jan 84

[Text] Radio Venceremos has just received this last-minute report:

Today, 13 January, an E-2 aircraft of the Salvadoran dictatorship bombed Juniguara canton in Honduran territory. We repeat, an E-2 aircraft of the Salvadoran dictatorship fired rockets at Juniguara canton in Honduran territory near the Morazan Department.

The criminal and genocidal pilots cannot hit their targets, so they shoot rockets at cantons and heavily populated towns in our homeland; and now they are doing the same against towns in Honduras. The Honduran Army has a post in Juniguara canton.

FARABUNDO MARTI REPORTS LA LIBERTAD AMBUSH

PA130318 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 12 Jan 84

[War Bulletin issued by the Modesto Ramirez Central Front; date and place not given]

[Text] In line with our political-military campaign, "All of the People Will Oppose Imperialist Intervention Until Victory," we report to our people that at 0530 on 11 January, FMLN guerrilla columns carried out an annihilation ambush that was also aimed at obtaining supplies from the enemy forces at San Juan Opico Artillery Garrison. Simultaneous attacks were launched on the enemy's positions at the Atiocoyo farming complex. The ambush took place near (El Sifon) Bridge, 2 km from San Pablo Tacachico, La Libertad Department.

The enemy convoy entered our theater of operations at 0530. A Massinger armored truck was totally destroyed by our rocket launcher fire. We killed 11 soldiers and wounded nine. We also seized a G-3 rifle with all its parts.

After one hour of combat, the enemy answered with 105-mm howitzer and 120-mm mortar fire. Our forces withdrew in an orderly manner. One guerrilla column reported that two of its members were slightly wounded. Column Commander Ramon Arce was in command of this operation.

United to fight until final victory; revolution or death, we will win!

[Signed] Commander Misael Gallardo

Aguilares Ambush

PA142150 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Excerpts] FMLN guerrilla forces are fighting in the Modesto Ramirez Central Front. Our "All the People To Oppose Imperialist Intervention Until Victory" national campaign is advancing.

A total of 75 soldiers were ambushed early yesterday morning, somewhere between Guazapa and Aguilares, with two antipersonnel mine explosions and accurate rifle fire. In this daring ambush, we inflicted 30 casualties, 14 dead, and 16 wounded on the dictatorship's criminal troops.

Shortly before the ambush our sappers had sabotaged powerlines along the northern highway in Aguilares Municipality.

This advances our "All the People To Oppose Imperialist Intervention Until Victory" national campaign.

FARABUNDO MARTI: FMLN OCCUPIES COASTAL HIGHWAY

PA160306 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0100 GMT 16 Jan 84

[War Bulletin issued by the Francisco Sanchez Eastern Front, Tres Calles, San Agustin Zone]

[Text] At 1500 on 14 January, forces of the Luis Adalberto Diaz Detachment and the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade were in control of an important sector of the coastal highway. Several companies of the Atonal Battalion and reinforcements from Usulutan and two O-2 planes tried in vain to dislodge us from our positions all day.

Our forces' mission was to hit and wear out the enemies who were trying to dislodge us from this strategic highway. In this action we caused them a large number of casualties. The results of the combats were 12 dead and 22 wounded on the enemy's side. Our forces did not suffer any casualties. Our forces withdrew in an orderly manner and without any problem after fulfilling their mission. United to fight until final victory! Revolution or death, we will win!

[Signed] Commanders (Roberto Jimenez) and (Lorenzo Marquez)

FARABUNDO MARTI CLAIMS REGIME BOMBS CIVILIANS

PA141641 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0100 GMT 14 Jan 84

[Excerpt] The dictatorship is continuing to harass the civilian population by the indiscriminate use of aircraft. Attention, national and international humanitarian organizations: At noon today, a U.S.-made A-37 plane bombed the civilian population of the El Mono Canton in the jurisdiction of Comalapa, Chalatenango Department. Two civilian residents lost their lives as the result of this cowardly action. This is the result of Henry Kissinger's reports and trips to our homeland.

FARABUNDO MARTI PRAISES PANAMANIAN'S IMMOLATION

PA141630 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0100 GMT 14 Jan 84

[Excerpt] The Panamanian people, who are an outstanding bulwark in the anti-imperialist struggle in Central America, produced one of our history's most beautiful, heroic, and patriotic gestures on 11 January.

Rolando Perez Palomino, a Panamanian patriot, expressing all of our peoples' anti-imperialistic sentiment in this era of obvious Yankee aggression, sacrificed his own life by setting himself on fire in front of the Yankee embassy in Panama City.

This voluntary sacrifice, carried out by Palomino before the embassy that symbolizes the misery and hunger of our peoples, sharply and forcefully expresses Central America's firm determination to fight to the death in rejecting and defeating Yankee imperialism's evil and shameful warlike intervention.

The Panamanian people and government have exalted Palomino's heroic gesture by conferring upon him the status of a hero and martyr in Central America's anti-imperialistic struggle.

GUATEMALA

MINISTER ON KISSINGER REPORT, ECONOMIC AID

PA131915 Guatemala City DIARIO EL GRAFICO 12 Jan 84 p 4

[Text] Guatemala is very interested in getting economic aid, but with no strings attached that might diminish its sovereignty, Foreign Minister Andrade said yesterday when asked about the Kissinger report to President Reagan.

Andrade admitted that there have been rumors that countries receiving this economic aid must meet some requirements. He added that it was mentioned to him on Tuesday that a regional organization for development would be established. He said he does not know the structure, but Central American countries interested in participating would be represented -- that is to say, it would not be binding.

Asked if Guatemala would participate, Andrade answered that Guatemala is interested in obtaining economic aid, provided there are no strings attached that will hamper its sovereignty. He added that the Central American countries are suffering a rather serious economic crisis, but the Kissinger report is a good sign that the United States is aware of this situation.

Andrade reported that he was visited on Tuesday by the U.S. Embassy charge d'affaires, who told him about the most important aspects of the report. Basically, he said, the report is bipartisan and represents the commission's effort and the U.S. interest in proposing alternatives for the area's economic and social development. The foreign minister added that one of the objectives of assistance to Central America is economic development.

Government Reaction

PA152134 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 13 Jan 84 p 12

[Text] The government denied reports yesterday attributed to the Kissinger commission on human rights violations and repression by the present regime in Guatemala. Foreign Minister Fernando Andrade Diaz-Duran said that Head of State General Oscar Mejia Victores has guaranteed that human rights will be respected and that every effort will be made to see that the abnormal situations of the past do not recur.

According to a UPI dispatch, the Bipartisan Commission headed by Henry Kissinger submitted a report to President Reagan 2 days ago on the results of its recent tour through Central America to determine causes and possible solutions to the problems. The commission reported that constant human rights violations in Guatemala were confirmed, and it recommended that any aid to this country be conditioned to respect for man's freedom.

Foreign Minister Andrade appeared somewhat reluctant yesterday to comment on the Kissinger commission report. He said the government is studying the report and will comment on it later. He accused international news agencies of carrying items which are often false as part of a misinformation campaign that is hurting the country. Everyone knows that there is no insurrection here; there have been periods of violence, but the present regime has managed to stop the rebels and is now promoting a process of restoring the constitutional system.

We disapprove of the report which says there is repression in the country. The pacification process is a fact in Guatemala. We have overcome a difficult and delicate period. The government is determined and is making every effort to see that human rights are respected. We need aid, but not if it is conditioned.

Meanwhile, Colonel Pablo Nuila Hub, spokesman for the head of state, said that what the government knows about the Kissinger commission report is what international news agencies have reported. The report was delivered to the President of the United States, not to the Guatemalan Government; therefore, we do not know its contents.

The human rights violations, they (the members of the commission) have reported are hard to confirm. Guatemalans will reach their own conclusions. It is impossible to learn the truth about a country during a short visit. Col Nuila said that perhaps the report was not intended to be biased, but nevertheless, it is misleading and is not based on a real knowledge of the current situation. We are awaiting an official copy of the Kissinger commission report before we will comment.

MEJIA INTERVIEWED ON FUTURE OF GOVERNMENT

PA131850 Guatemala City Radio Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Political leader (Carlos Gueler Mata) yesterday suggested that the constituent assembly to be installed this year elect Head of State Gen Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores president of the Republic.

Asked about the suggestion, Mejia categorically denied he would accept such a designation. He also denied the possibility of electing a provisional government.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Would you accept being designated provisional president by the constituent assembly, as one politician has publicly suggested?

[Mejia] Well, no, because, according to the Constitution, I am a president -- (?I mean, I am a de facto head of state -- appointed by a junta of commanders.

[Reporter] General, what would happen if the National Assembly designated a provisional president, as occurred in El Salvador?

[Mejia] That would not happen here because we are not in El Salvador.

[Reporter] Would you accept what is known as the will of a constituent assembly?

[Mejia] The assembly's will is to be used to draft a constitution, not to rule the country. We cannot accept a state within a state.

[Reporter] What do you have to say on extending the presidential term for 4 more years? Is it long enough, or should it be extended?

[Mejia] This will be up to the constituent assembly to determine, based on the experience of former governments.

[Reporter] Based on the experience you have gained during the time you have governed Guatemala, what is your opinion?

[Answer indistinct] [end recording]

Later, Mejia commented that 8 days after the electoral law is published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE, his government will call for elections for the national constituent assembly. He also announced that the government will extend the amnesty for alleged guerrillas. The amnesty is scheduled to end on 20 January.

[Begin recording -- in progress] [Mejia]... once the electoral law is approved and published.

[Reporter] That would be next week?

[Mejia] Correct.

[Reporter] The deadline for the amnesty has been set for 20 January. Are you willing to extend it so it will be possible to [words indistinct] on the Mexican border?

[Mejia] Precisely. [Passage indistinct]

[Reporter] The Guatemalan foreign minister this week pointed out the possibility of a summit meeting of Central American presidents and heads of state. Would your government and you as head of state participate in this summit meeting to discuss the Central American situation?

[Mejia] This was mentioned at the Contadora conference, but it was not proposed by Guatemala. We are not planning to hold such a meeting, but we would attend if one were held.

[Reporter] Do you think such a meeting is necessary?

[Mejia] That is somewhat complicated.

[Reporter] General, have you set a date for all officers and military men who occupy public administration posts to return to their quarters?

[Mejia] Some of them have already returned to their quarters. Some of them will continue to work with me.

[Reporter] Does this mean that some officers will remain at public posts for some time?

[Mejia] Yes, that is correct. [end recording]

TRIBUNAL RULES ASSEMBLY TO HAVE 88 DEPUTIES

PA131835 Guatemala City Radio Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] The Supreme Electoral Tribunal has determined that the National Constituent Assembly will consist of 88 deputies. This was reported on 10 January during a tribunal meeting with representatives of eight party organizing committees. They agreed that listings used for Constituent Assembly members should include district and national deputies, which would mean that the constituent assembly would be made up of 65 district deputies and 23 national deputies 25 years old or older.

COMMISSIONER, PATROLMEN SHOT IN BAJA VERAPAZ

PA131905 Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Summary] Several masked, unidentified men arrived in El Chol, Baja Verapaz Department, late yesterday afternoon. They shot and wounded Military Commissioner Virgilio Cordoba and his sister Margarito at their home, and then shot and wounded civilian self-defense patrolmen Eulalio Vasquez, Alfredo Vargas, and Enrique Espinosa after dragging them from their homes.

All five were in serious condition at the hospital in the departmental capital, and security forces had begun an investigation.

HONDURAS

PAZ BARNICA ON CONTADORA, HELICOPTER INCIDENT

PA150122 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 14 Jan 84

[Statement by Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica, immediately after the National Security Council meeting on 13 January in Tegucigalpa -- recorded]

[Text] A full report on the fifth meeting of the Central American foreign ministers with the four foreign ministers of the Contadora Group to discuss peace efforts for Latin America was included on the agenda [of the National Security Council meeting].

We carefully analyzed the report and approved it so that immediate measures can be implemented to make the objectives approved on 9 September 1983 effective. We believed that the document approved over the weekend in Panama City represents a significant achievement by President Roberto Suazo Cordova's democratic and constitutional government and his foreign policy. We believe this, because our views on global and regional positions prevailed in the document, including the aspects related to policies on economi and social development, security, international mechanisms for supervision and vigilance, and for the establishment of three work commissions comprised of representatives of the five Central American countries, which will be assisted by the countries of the Contadora Group. As suggested by Honduras, these commissions will begin working on 31 January, representing a positive step on the road to peace, which is the goal pursued by the Honduran Government regarding the Central American problem.

We also discussed the U.S. helicopter incident. The helicopter was shot in Honduran airspace while flying from Valle Department to Olancho Department. The helicopter made a forced landing in Honduran territory, and when the pilot, a U.S. citizen, came out of the helicopter, he was shot and killed by members of the Nicaraguan Army from Nicaraguan territory. The helicopter was not armed and was on a routine flight. Regarding this incident, the National Security Council received a report on the measures the government of President Suazo Cordova has taken. We have already lodged a strong protest with the Nicaraguan Government. Our ambassador to Nicaragua, Isidro Tapia Martinez was recalled for a consultaiton, and he will personally deliver the protest note.

We also contacted the four foreign ministers of the Contadora Group to let them know of this unfortunate incident, which not only violates the spirit but weakens the success of the meeting sponsored by the Contadora Group last weekend in Panama City. It looks as if the Nicaraguan Government -- and we hope that this is not true -- is trying to detract from the attention that we, with the participation of democratic Latin American countries, are dedicating to peace-keeping effots, about which I am totally optimistic.

We have also reported this act of aggression to international organizations and have called for an OAS Permanent Council meeting on Monday so that the incident is brought to the attention of the OAS. We must remind you that the OAS Permanent Council has been convoked by two Central American countries, in less than 6 months, first by Costa Rica and now Honduras, to denounce acts of aggression by the Nicaraguan Government.

We are also carefully analyzing the Kissinger commission report, which was delivered to President Reagan just a couple of days ago. We are optimistically studying its plans for aid and cooperation in the economic order that will be provided to our countries.

Honduras will not sever relations with Nicaragua. We have diplomatic, consular, and commercial relations. As I have already said, incidents like this weaken and violate the Contadora Group peace efforts. The Honduran Government maintains permanent positions to safeguard our territorial integrity and the country's sovereignty.

Contadora Ambassadors on Incident

PA140640 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 13 Jan 84 p 48

[By Marco Tulio Romero]

[Text] Tegucigalpa -- The Contadora Group countries' ambassadors accredited to the Honduran Government have met with Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica. They said the incident that took place in the border area between Nicaragua and Honduras is critical.

Panamanian Ambassador Salvador de la Iglesia, the group's spokesman, said it is deplorable that this incident occurred when a general peace treaty for the Central American area is about to be signed.

The ambassadors of Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, and Mexico spoke with Paz Barnica about the latest achievements in the search for a solution to the conflict in the region.

"We hope this does not represent an obstacle to Contadora's contacts, although this is a deplorable incident," De la Iglesia said when asked about the new situation provoked by the Sandinist aggression. He said the attack on the helicopter and the U.S. pilot's death were not discussed at length, and that the Honduran Foreign Secretariat would issue its own reply on this matter.

We Will Continue Our Efforts

The diplomat said that despite these circumstances, the Contadora Group will continue its efforts to find a solution to the conflict, since a schedule has been established to achieve this goal.

"Contadora will continue its meetings, because the Central American governments have approved its proposals," the Panamanian ambassador asserted.

Mexican Ambassador Plutarco Albarran and Venezuelan Ambassador Hermes Salas Rivero refrained from commenting on the situation created by the Sandinists. The Sandinists endangered the tenuous peace that exists between the two countries when they attacked persons who were inside Honduras.

EEC OFFICIAL MEETS SUAZO, CONDEMNS INCIDENT

PA131400 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 12 Jan 84 p 3

[Text] Shortly after meeting with President Suazo Cordova, the president of the European Parliament, Pieter Dankert, condemned the border incident in which a U.S. officer was killed.

Dankert, on an official visit to Honduras, said that he was "unaware of the details of the incident; I merely condemn the action."

He noted that at his meeting with President Suazo Cordova, they discussed the political situation in Central America and European economic cooperation with Honduras. "It is best not to build exaggerated hopes about economic cooperation, because the present economic situation of the EEC nations is not very good," he explained.

However, he said that the best solution to economically help the area would be through a commercial agreement between the CACM and the EEC.

He also praised the Honduran democratic process and stated that it is quite satisfying to the European Parliament to see that Honduras has established a pluralistic democratic system.

ALVAREZ: JOINT, TEMPORARY U.S. BASE MAY BE BUILT

PA131924 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1908 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 13 Jan (ACAN-EFE) -- Honduran Armed Forces Commander General Gustavo Alvarez said today that there is a chance, as yet unconfirmed, that a joint Honduran-U.S. military base will be built in Honduras.

Gen Alvarez made the statement at the end of a special urgent meeting of the National Security Council that met to "assess the latest military incidents on the border with Nicaragua."

The Honduran Armed Forces commander said that "the situation is quite difficult, perhaps the most critical ever in relations with Nicaragua, which is why the possible military base would be temporary, to last only while the current dangerous conditions exist."

NICARAGUA

DANIEL ORTEGA ON HELICOPTER, KISSINGER REPORT

PA131606 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Interview with Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, by an unidentified reporter at the Cesar Augusto Silva Convention Center in Managua on 12 January following a meeting of the Nicaraguan-Costa Rican Mixed Commission -- recorded]

[Summary] [Ortega] We feel that this 5th meeting of the Costa Rican-Nicaraguan Mixed Commission is very important. This is an effort to contribute to peace in Central America.

It should be noted, however, "that on the Honduran-Nicaraguan border area, some tense situations are arising against the Contadora Group's peace efforts in the region," while the Costa Rican-Nicaraguan Mixed Commission is making efforts toward peace here in Managua. This is the example that should be followed, and not the example that is being given at the border with Honduras, "where there is a military presence" directed against Nicaraguan people and the peace efforts in Central America.

[Unidentified reporter] "What about the Kissinger report?

[Ortega] "We have not yet had an opportunity to review the report of the Kissinger commission. What I can say is that from the moment the Kissinger commission was formed, it was a commission that was primarily designed to respond to the current situation and to strengthen a policy that had already been decided by the U.S. Administration. We have explained that commissions are nothing new in the history of U.S. relations with Latin America. Each time a crisis arises in Latin America, the United States hastens to appoint commissions. When the Cuban revolution triumphed, the United States appointed commissions and came out with the famous Alliance for Progress, and then they forgot about Latin America. When the U.S. military intervention occurred in Santo Domingo, they hastened to create commissions once again, and then they forgot about Latin America. Now that the Nicaraguan revolution has triumphed and the Salvadoran people are waging a struggle, they have run to form another commission.

They are really commissions that respond to interests of the moment, to very particular interests of the Government that is in power at the time in the United States. Therefore, they do not reflect a coherent, consistent, real policy regarding what U.S. relations with the Latin American peoples should be. Therefore, we do not believe that the report of the Kissinger commission contains anything extraordinary. Its majority opinion simply strengthens the policy that is already known."

[Reporter] What new information is there regarding the problem of the helicopter that violated our airspace?

[Ortega] "An official communique from the Nicaraguan Government in that regard was issued last night. There is a communique from the Sandinist Army (?and) the Defense Ministry describing the events. We believe that there have been contradictory versions by representatives of the U.S. Government, because they have insisted that the helicopter was fired upon when it was flying over Nicaraguan territory.

"That is where the helicopter was fired upon, when it was flying over Nicaraguan territory, violating Nicaraguan territory. We must also say that we were the first to be surprised upon discovering that the helicopter was North American. I am sure that the companeros firing on the helicopter did not realize they were firing on a North American helicopter, since the North Americans have explained many times that they have (?instructions) not to get close to the Nicaraguan border in their maneuvers in Honduran territory. They speak of a distance of (?20) miles. There is no explanation -- well, they are the ones who should explain -- what that helicopter was doing so close to the Nicaraguan border and even entering Nicaraguan territory. A helicopter [words indistinct] exploration and vigilance task is really outside the maneuvers they have said they are carrying out in the interior of the Honduran territory and never on the Nicaraguan border. We know that in recent days there has been intense activity in that zone, activity promoted by U.S. policy and the counterrevolutionaries. We even thought from the initial reports that the helicopter that was fired upon by the Sandinist combatants in that zone was one of those that the counterrevolutionaries have been using for supplies, helicopters that the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency has provided to them. We also thought that it could have been a helicopter of the Honduran Army which has been directly participating in support of the activity of the counterrevolutionaries. We did not imagine that it was a U.S. helicopter. We were the first to be surprised. It is clear that it was fired upon while it was flying, that it continued to be fired upon when it was fleeing to Honduran territory, when it was looking for a way to Honduran territory. The version that it was fired upon when it was on the ground -- (?a version they) insist on -- we cannot accept this, as it is being presented by the U.S. [word indistinct]. The helicopter was fired upon when it was flying over Nicaraguan territory.

[Reporter] "President Reagan has said that the death of this pilot, who he insists -- as you said -- was fired upon, is a great tragedy.

[Ortega] "I think it is a great tragedy that North American and Central American citizens are dying in Central America. [Words indistinct] a great tragedy is occurring. We would have to look at the causes. There is really a great tragedy in Central America. The fact that U.S. citizens, who are members of the U.S. Armed Forces and who are ordered to come down on missions to Central America, are dying (?is) a tragedy. It is a tragedy that Central Americans are dying as a result of a policy of aggression against the Central American peoples.

We have lamented the death of the U.S. pilot. We have (?expressed) our condolences to the family of the U.S. pilot. We think he is a victim of the aggressive situation being experienced in the Central American region. In any case, one feels that the death of the North American pilot should be a call to reflection about the need to stop bloodying Central America and to look for a political solution to the problems that have been created. Therefore, this should not serve as pretext, this should not be used to escalate the already critical situation, the situation of war that (?exists) in the Central American region. On the contrary, it should serve as an element of reflection, so that similar actions will not continue to occur; above all, so that the policy of aggression will be set aside in Central America, a policy that means the daily death of dozens of Central Americans.

[Reporter] Do you think this was an attempt to provoke us?

[Ortega] "We think, and hope, that this was not a provocation." We hope this was really an accidental situation that neither the United States nor Nicaragua wanted, and therefore, that it will not serve as a pretext for larger actions.

ORTEGA ON AIRCRAFT DOWNING; RAMIREZ ON ELECTIONS

PA140400 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0120 GMT 14 Jan 84

["Face the People" program, with Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction; Junta member Sergio Ramirez Mercado; and other government and FSLN officials; held in the Altagracia neighborhood in Managua's Zone No 4 -- live]

[Excerpts] [Ortega] Before we hear your questions, we would like to comment on the situation in the Nueva Segovia area where a U.S. helicopter entered our territory and was shot at by the people's defenses -- the Army, the Militia, and the workers. Today UPI filed a dispatch from a correspondent who visited the area. This dispatch explained the state of alert being maintained by our people in that zone, a war zone. The Militia members interviewed by the UPI correspondent explained how they shot at the helicopter when it was flying over our territory. Some peasants who were working the land in that area also explained how they stopped what they were doing and picked up their rifles to shoot at the helicopter they saw flying over our territory without identification. Logically, such an incident could become a very serious matter, because the pilot of the helicopter died and there will be U.S. officials who will encourage a military reply to Nicaragua because we shot at the helicopter and because the pilot was killed. U.S. Secretary of State Shultz has emphatically said that no military reprisals will be taken against Nicaragua.

The truth is that this incident, or accident, has occurred at a time when Nicaragua is still a victim of the aggressive policy being promoted by the U.S. Government. This undoubtedly is causing blood to be shed by Central Americans, Nicaraguans, and in this case, a U.S. citizen. This situation of aggression against the Nicaraguan people is in violation of the human rights of the peoples. It violates all international principles.

The fact that military maneuvers are taking place in Honduras does not benefit the peace efforts being made in the Central American region. Incidents like this can become the spark for greater aggression in the Central American region. For some time now we have been insisting that the U.S. military presence in Central America is dangerous, because situations, directed or accidental, could occur and could be used as a pretext for a greater military action in the Central American region, especially against Nicaragua.

The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry has issued a communique supporting our Defense Ministry's communique explaining what happened. The communique explained what happened once the helicopter was sighted flying over our territory -- at a time when we are experiencing a new counterrevolutionary escalation in that area of Nueva Segovia, where more than 600 counterrevolutionaries -- according to our latest figures, maybe 900 counterrevolutionaries -- could have participated in the new offensive in that area. Seventeen helicopters had been reported transporting supplies and weapons, picking up wounded, and delivering ammunition for the counterrevolutionaries. No one was aware that it was a U.S. helicopter; since Nicaragua had not been informed that U.S. helicopters were in the area. When the maneuvers began, they said that the U.S. soldiers, helicopters, and other equipment would always be at a prudent distance from our border. Then the helicopter appeared, violating our national territory. In fact, it seemed as though it was participating in a counterrevolutionary action that was taking place at that moment. This is why our companeros fired. The militia members shot from one side, the workers and peasants tilling the land fired from another. They continued to fire on the helicopter as it sought to find a way out toward Honduran territory. The helicopter fell a few meters from the border. According to the reports issued by the U.S. Government to the American people, they said it fell 25 to 30 meters from the border. This is a highway, a road that the Hondurans built approximately 2 years ago. They opened it to facilitate the counterrevolutionaries' transportation throughout the border zone. It is a road that passes only 1 or 2 meters from the border with Nicaragua. The helicopter landed some 25 or 30 meters from the border. Logically, the companeros shot at the helicopter, and it was at this moment that the U.S. pilot was killed.

There are other reports, coming directly from the United States itself, from correspondents of U.S. newspapers in Honduras. These reports indicate that the helicopter's identification was printed in small letters; in other words, it was difficult to identify. In addition, the helicopter was strangely covered with mud. What was that helicopter doing around there, unless it was exploring Nicaraguan territory?

The pilot's death is regrettable, and we have said so. We explained this in a public communique, and we expressed our condolences to the U.S. pilot's relatives. After all, the U.S. pilot is a victim of this policy of aggression. He did not go to Honduras on his own. He did not go exploring over Nicaraguan territory on his own. He went there obeying orders. The responsibility falls on those higher up. The pilot is not to blame. We have also said that the death of the U.S. pilot is regrettable, and the deaths of Nicaraguans also are regrettable. Nicaraguans are dying in this country, victims of this policy of aggression against Nicaragua. There are also Central Americans dying every day because of the situations of injustice and violence experienced in Central America, because of the interventionism practiced in Central America, and because of the resistance to finding a political solution to the problems.

Therefore, we do not rejoice over this event. Instead, we consider that this event should be used to get the U.S. Government's attention so that it will not continue with this policy. Almost all the Democratic candidates in the United States are against this policy of aggression and intervention in Central America.

[Unidentified reporter] How does our revolutionary government plan to direct the 1985 elections, knowing that we are daily facing attacks by U.S. imperialism? How are we going to launch our FSLN candidate to face the enemies of the revolution?

[Ramirez] Companeros, first of all, I believe we should delve into the history of what our elections mean within the context of the Sandinist revolutionary process. Some people might think that we have announced the holding of elections because someone is imposing them on us, because of pressure from abroad, or because we want to please people and overcome a difficult situation. None of these reasons has prompted the holding of the coming elections in Nicaragua. The plan to hold democratic elections in Nicaragua is contained in the FSLN's political program. We should also bear in mind that when the FSLN set out to win those first big elections in Nicaragua, which were the insurrectional war to overthrow the dictatorship, it did so with a political program presented to the people. That program contains everything that the FSLN plans to do to change Nicaragua politically, eccnomically, and socially.

Of course, the original FSLN program did not mention only elections. It also mentioned the agrarian reform which the FSLN has implemented. This year more than 500,000 manzanas of land have been given to peasant cooperatives. The program also mentioned nationalizing banks. Banks were nationalized and credits have been made available to small- and medium-size farmers. It mentioned the nationalization of foreign trade and taking the management of our exports out of the hands of the existing financial monopolies. This has been done. It mentioned democratizing education in Nicaragua. We did this by conducting a literacy campaign. This year we expect an enrollment of more than 1 million students. The FSLN's original program also mentioned health. This is the second consecutive year there has been no poliomyelitis in Nicaragua. We have been fulfilling the FSLN's complete political program. We now have to fulfill another part of that program -- the elections. These elections were announced before the triumph of the revolution. They were confirmed on 22 August 1980, almost a year after the victory. They were contained in a decree issued by the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction announcing that they were to be held in 1985.

All these social, economic, and political programs of the revolution will continue. The elections are part of this program. The fact that we are going to hold elections in Nicaragua does not mean we will suspend the agrarian reform. We will not stop giving land to the peasants. We will not stop vaccinating children so that there will be no more poliomyelitis. We will not stop building classrooms for more students. Foreign trade will not again become the monopoly of the oligarchy. Nor will we give land back to the large landowners who used to exploit the peasants. The banks will not fall again into the hands of the financial oligarchy.

For this to happen, the people would have to vote for the return of banks to private ownership, for foreign trade to return to private hands, for health to become a profitable business, as it used to be, and for an end to the agrarian reform and return of landowners to power. The Nicaraguan people will have to choose and vote for one candidate. That candidate is the revolution. This is very important. [applause]

We cannot believe that a candidate's first and last name constitute a magic formula to solve problems. We have been solving problems through a popular process, with the participation of mass organizations, defense groups, production, and civilian defense sectors. We have the participation of labor unions in managing enterprises. Peasant cooperatives have been organized. We have to evaluate how banking credits are being handled, how foreign exchange is being used. All these aspects are part of the process in which we all participate.

When elections are held, no one will come here on the basis of his first or last name making promises he cannot fulfill and telling us that the entire framework of the revolution that belongs to the people will be replaced by a mere name.

This does not mean that we are going to hold elections without candidates. There will be candidates from different parties. However, what the Nicaraguan people have to learn is who is behind those candidates. What program do they propose? What political context do they embrace? The rightists attack us when we speak of elections of new classes and new plans. They tell us that these are one-party elections, as if this were a totalitarian country.

Some people dream of elections in which we will start selling candidates like soap or detergent. It is not a question of which razor gives a better shave or which soap lasts longer. It is a question of which parties have the most responsible programs and who can really guarantee the people that they will go ahead with this revolutionary process. This process can only be stopped or turned back when the Nicaraguan people say so.

Companeros, this is the kind of election we are thinking of when we speak of elections in Nicaragua. The rules of the electoral game will be set by the government junta on 21 February, the day we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the death of General Sandino. After that the electoral process will start developing with full guarantees, so that all Nicaraguans may vote and be elected. [applause]

DANIEL ORTEGA ON HONDURAN CALL FOR OAS MEETING

PA130431 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, said tonight that the Honduran Government did not act properly when it requested an urgent meeting of the OAS Permanent Council. As is already known, the Honduran Government has requested that the OAS Permanent Council meet on Monday, claiming that Nicaragua is seriously threatening peace. Commander Ortega said that if someone is undermining peace in Central America it is the Honduran Government. The coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction said that Edwin Ablah, Nicaraguan ambassador to Honduras, has been urgently recalled to Nicaragua on a briefing mission.

Commander Daniel Ortega made this statement following the fifth meeting of the Nicaragua-Costa Rica Mixed Commission held at the Cesar Augusto Silva Convention Center.

KISSINGER REPORT VIEWED; RAMIREZ REACTS

PA131645 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] The controversial Kissinger report views Nicaragua as a permanent threat to the security of its Central American neighbors and the United States. It recommends its elimination through a military solution that is opposed to the Contadora Group's peace efforts. The report, which was presented to President Reagan by former Secretary of State Kissinger, has provoked great controversy between Democrats, who view it as a plan to continue the war in Central America, and Republicans, who describe it as realistic.

In the report, Nicaragua emerges as the first base for Cuban-Soviet expansionism on the American Continent and as the main promoter of the Marxist-Leninist revolutionary processes of El Salvador and Guatemala. The 12-member Kissinger commission stayed only 3 hours in Nicaragua during its 6-day tour of Central America.

Although Kissinger has said that he achieved bipartisan consensus on Central American policy, the final report includes several appendices that present several of the commission members' disagreements with the conservative line.

The report indicated that the Reagan administration is correct in carrying out a war to destroy the Sandinist revolution, and it recommends that the covert war against the country be continued. However, some of the commission members expressed their disagreement with this view in one of the appendices to the report.

According to the Kissinger commission, as a requirement for a negotiated solution with the United States, Nicaragua should permit the counterrevolutionaries to participate in free elections and break its relations with Cuba. The Nicaraguan Government considers these conditions harmful to national sovereignty.

Regarding the economic plan recommended by the commission, the report proposes that Nicaragua be invited to participate in the creation of an Organization for the Development of Central America through which $8 billion in economic aid would be distributed. Nevertheless, the conditions imposed by Washington for a negotiated solution exclude Nicaragua from this organization, whose presidency will be held by the United States.

After learning of the Kissinger report on Central America, Democratic Congressman Michael Barnes, chairman of the House of Representatives' Subcommittee on Hemispheric Affairs, said that the commission's recommendations on Nicaragua are a prescription for war.

In his report on Central America, Kissinger included all the most extremist absurdities that the Reagan administration has used against Nicaragua, Government Junta Member Sergio Ramirez Mercado said in answer to a question from a reporter of Radio Sandino's "Extra Newscast."

[Begin recording] [Ramirez Mercado] Mr Kissinger has out-Heroded Herod, because the report is so extreme that not even Reagan likes it. The Reagan administration has already said that they are going to implement it in a selective manner. What Kissinger has done is include all the most extreme absurdities that the Reagan administration has been using against Nicaragua, threatening to shoot us up if we don't obey. The product of this commission is a political and diplomatic failure for the Reagan administration -- first becuase of the extremism of the report and second because two members of the commission opposed the conclusions, especially those that refer to Nicaragua and El Salvador.

[Unidentified reporter] Do you think this opposes the latest decisions of the Contadora Group?

[Ramirez Mercado] Totally. It does not consider them. For example, the Kissinger report said that we have never made any specific proposals to Contadora on disarmament and on the reduction of military advisers. The report is dated 7 January, and we made those proposals in November. [end recording]

PLANS FOR U.S.-BUILT ROAD IN COSTA RICA CITED

PA131955 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] The United States will be sending military engineers to Costa Rica, it was revealed today in San Jose at a meeting between Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Gutierrez and U.S. Ambassador Curtin Winsor. The two officials agreed that the Yankee military engineers will build an important highway across farmland bordering our country, which has prompted analysts to consider whether such a route might be used for direct military intervention in our territory.

The Costa Rican foreign minister has admitted that under present circumstances, the Yankee presence so close to Nicaraguan territory would stir suspicion and would require special protection for them and weapons for their defense. The situation is significant, because since Costa Rica has no regular army, this would probably lead to U.S. occupation of a strip of Costa Rican territory, and this would further increase tension in the area.

CARLOS NUNEZ OUTLINES NATURE OF 1985 ELECTIONS

PA142208 Paris AFP in Spanish 2146 GMT 14 Jan 84

[Text] Managua, 14 Jan (AFP) -- The Sandinist government will hold elections for president and vice president of the Republic and for deputies to a Legislative Assembly, which will also serve as a Constituent Assembly. Carlos Nunez, president of the State Council, made this announcement today.

Nunez said that the process will be regulated by a Superior Elections Council, that the elections law will be established in the next few months, and that the elected authorities will serve for a period of 6 years. He added that the election date will be announced on 21 February 1984, during the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the death of Augusto Cesar Sandino, who inspired the Nicaraguan revolution.

Further Details

PA142355 Paris AFP in Spanish 2204 GMT 14 Jan 84

[Excerpts] Managua, 14 Jan (AFP) -- The Legislative Assembly will have 90 deputies who during their first 2 years in office must approve a new consitution, the first since the 1979 Sandinist victory. The deputies will be elected according to an electoral quotient by which Managua, with close to 20 percent of the population, will elect 25 legislators.

The bill announced by Nunez gives all Nicaraguan citizens over 18 years of age the right to participate in the elections. The president and vice president must be over 25 years of age, and the legislators must be over 21.

According to the bill, religious persons and soldiers may vote and be elected to government positions, but the soldiers must resign from the Army before participating in political and electoral activities. However, political and common prisoners, as well as leaders of the counterrevolution, are excluded from electoral rights.

On the financing of the parties, Nunez said that these will receive one-half percent of the national budget next year to pay for their election campaigns. In addition, international financing could be admitted. He added that an electoral register will be established and that each Nicaraguan citizen will receive documentation to assert their election rights.

Nunez said that the Sandinist front has not yet determined who its presidential candidate will be. "We have a lot of time and are not desperate to seek a nominee," he said. However, local analysts believe that the Sandinist leaders with the greatest possibility of aspiring to the presidency are Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Government Junta, and Interior Minister Tomas Borge.

Nunez said that the elections will not be "supervised" by foreign delegates, "because Nicrargua has sufficient credibility to hold the elections without this condition."

In this respect, he discarded the possibility of inviting the OAS to send observers to the process, but said that the Contadora Group, the United Nations, the Socialist International, the Social Christian International, and Liberal International might do so. "There is a huge difference between the OAS and the United Nations," said Nunez in justifying the elimination of the OAS.

Nunez said that int the near future the State Council will discuss a new communications media law to reestablish freedom of the press and will decide either to suspend or modify the state of emergency law that has been in force for almost 2 years.

Nunez said that it is necessary and appropriate that the Social Democratic Party, the Communist Party, and the Marxist-Leninist Peoples Action Movement be incororated into the State Council to discuss the electoral and other bills.

Ortega, Ramirez Candidates

PA151819 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1745 GMT 15 Jan 84

[By Jesus Montesinos]

[Text] Managua, 15 Jan (ACAN-EFE) -- Reliable sources have told ACAN-EFE that Daniel Ortega and Sergio Ramirez Mercado will be the presidential and vice presidential candidates in the Nicaraguan elections scheduled for 1985. The same sources added that the FSLN will participate in the elections alone, without formalizing any pact with the parties of the Patriotic Front of the Revolution.

Daniel Ortega is commander of the revolution and coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction [JGRN] and is a member of the FSLN National Directorate. Sergio Ramirez is the second in command of the JGRN and is a member of the Sandinist Assembly. He is regarded as the strategist for the Sandinist political "opening."

The selection of the two candidates was made at a recent meeging of the FSLN National Directorate, ACAN-EFE learned. The decision was later made known to some members of the Sandinist Assembly during an extraordinary session that was not tension-free.

MEETING WITH COSTA RICA OPENS IN MANAGUA

PA131851 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] A meeting of the Nicaraguan-Costa Rican Mixed Commission began at 1030 yesterday in the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry, for the purpose of continuing the talks that were held at the fourth meeting in San Jose in August 1983. The Costa Rican delegation is being led by Manuel Carballo, deputy minister of the presidency. The talks will deal with Costa Rica's problems as a result of the counterrevolutionaries' Activity, the voluntary repatriation of Nicaraguan refugees in Costa Rica, and the exchange of prisoners.

The welcoming speech was delivered by Rodrigo Reyes, minister-secretary of the Government Junta. Carballo also spoke, stressing that he was very pleased by the meeting, since new important steps would be achieved in bilateral understanding and in easing tensions on the isthmus, two objectives being sought by the Contadora Group.

Communique Issued

PA132135 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Press communique issued by the Foreign Ministry in Managua on 13 January]

[Text] The fifth meeting of the Nicaraguan-Costa Rican Mixed Commission was held in Managua on 12 and 13 January 1984. The Costa Rican delegation was comprised of Manuel Carballo, deputy minister of the presidency; Ekhart Peters, deputy foreign minister; Enrique Pochet, deputy justice minister; Johnny Campos, deputy security minister; Enrique Chacon, deputy government minister; (Alvaro Antillon), director general of the Foreign Ministry; Colonel Oscar Vidal, director general of the Civil Guard; Fernando Mauro Rudin, director general of the land registry office; and Elizabeth Zamora Casasola, assistant to the Commission.

The Nicaraguan delegation was made up of Dr Rodrigo Reyes, minister-secretary general of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction and coordinator of the delegation; Victor Hugo Tinoco, deputy foreign minsiter; Brigade Commander Rene Vivas Lugo, deputy interior minister; Deputy Commander Moises Hassan Morales, deputy interior minister; Alba Luz Ramos, deputy justice minister; Commander Roberto Calderon, chief of the staff of the second military zone; Leonor Arguello, Nicaraguan ambassador to Costa Rica; (Augusto Cesar Zamora Rodriguez), legal director of the Foreign Ministry; (Jorge Lopez Reyes), head of the Central America and Caribbean Department; Alejandro Rodriguez, director of the Territorial Studies Institute; and (Jose Luis Aburto), financial adviser of the Foreign Ministry.

During the meeting, which was held in a climate of great cordiality and respect, the participants examined various topics of common interest to the two countries and adopted several agreements to further strengthen the fraternal relations between the peoples and Governments of Costa Rica and Nicaragua. The delegations approved two drafts of procedures, the first to define the situation and the treatment of Costa Rican citizens captured in Nicaragua by Nicaraguan authorities and the second for the repatriation of Nicaraguans kidnapped by counterrevolutionaries in Nicaraguan territory and turned over to Costa Rican authorities, as well as that of other Nicaraguans detained in Costa Rica.

The two delegations exchanged information and reviewed reports of irregularities in the border area. They also reviewed reports on the adoption of adequate mechanisms to prevent incidents in the border area. The members continued their work of the [words indistinct] in the border. It was agreed to initiate studies on the establishment of a provisional maritime borderline, in order to avoid incidents caused by confusion or deviation in those areas where it is deemed necessary.

They also reviewed a Nicaraguan request that the two governments cooperate in facilitating the voluntary repatriation of Nicaraguan refugees in Costa Rica. The Costa Rican delegation expressed its willingness to cooperate on this task, in accordance with what agreements reached at the last meeting between the Contadora Group and the Central American foreign ministers.

After the meetings, Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega and Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto met with the Commission members. Ortega expressed his satisfaction with the work carried out by the Commission, which has noticeably contributed to stronger Costa Rican and Nicaraguan relations. Commander Ortega also spoke of the latest political events in Nicaragua. The two delegations agreed to hold their next meeting in San Jose, no later than the third week of February.

FIDEL CASTRO RECEIVES BULGARIAN PARTY OFFICIAL

FL141231 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Jan 84

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has received the delegation headed by Ognyan Doynov, member of the Bulgarian Communist Party Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee.

During the talks, the development of bilateral relations between our two countries, industrial cooperation and, specifically, machinery construction as well as other topics of mutual interest were discussed.

BTA on Meeting

AU131155 Sofia BTA in English 1113 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] Sofia, Jan 13 (BTA corr) -- Mr Fidel Castro, first secretary of the CC of the Cuban Communist Party and chairman of the Republic's State and Ministerial Councils, received last night Mr Ognyan Doynov, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CC of the BCP and minister of mechanical engineering, and Mr Stanish Bonev, candidate-member of the Politburo of the CC of the BCP, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and chairman of the State Planning Committee, who are here at the invitation of the CC of the Cuban Communist Party.

Mr Ognyan Doynov delivered to Mr Fidel Castro congratulations from Mr Todor Zhivkov, secretary general of tne CC of the BCP and president of the State Council. In a friendly and cordial atmosphere, questions of mutual interest were discussed and stress was laid on the need for search fresh forms [as received] and possibilities for the further extending and deepening of bilateral cooperation.

CEMA DELEGATION ARRIVES IN SANTIAGO DE CUBA

FL141309 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Jan 84

[Text] A CEMA delegation headed by Vyacheslav Sychev, CEMA secretary, has arrived in Santiago de Cuba, hero city of the Republic of Cuba.

Prior to their arrival in Santiago de Cuba, the delegation members visited Holguin, where they toured production centers and the Nicaro and Moa nickel plants.

During their stay in Santiago de Cuba, they will visit historical places as well as the principal sites where the liberation struggle restarted in our country 30 years ago. They will also tour the Celia Sanchez Manduley textile complex, the largest in Cuba, which was recently inaugurated as part of the activities honoring the 30th Moncada Anniversary.

FURTHER REPORT ON HUNGARIAN DELEGATION'S VISIT

LD121834 Budapest MTI in English 1732 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Havana, January 12 (MTI) -- The Hungarian delegation to the 12th session of the Hungarian-Cuban Economic and Technical-Scientific Cooperation Committee in Havana was led by Deputy Premier Jozsef Marjai and the Cuban delegation by Deputy Premier Jose Ramon Fernandez.

The delegations reviewed the development of the two countries' economic relations and decided on further expansion. The protocol of the session was signed by Jozsef Marjai and Jose Ramon Fernandez.

It was stated that Hungarian-Cuban trade turnover had developed as planned, inter-state agreements fulfilled as scheduled, and the setting up of Ikarus assembly plants in Cuba progressing.

As part of CEMA cooperation the two countries jointly develop citrus fruit production and processing, and expand Cuban nickel and cobalt mining facilities. Hungarian-Cuban technical-scientific contacts are developing favourably with important achievements in Hungarian geological prospecting in Cuba and development of public transport. Cooperation extends to the training and employment of a Cuban workforce in Hungary. The planning offices of the two countries have already worked out a schedule for coordinating the two countries' economic plans in the years 1983-1990.

During the 12th session of the cooperation committee the 1984 Hungarian-Cuban trade protocol and an operation schedule for the development of bus construction cooperation were signed.

Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party and president of the State Council and Council of Ministers, met Jozsef Marjai.

The Hungarian deputy premier held talks with Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice-president of the State Council and Council of Ministers, Guillermo Garcia, deputy premier and minister of transport, members of the Cuban Communst Party Political Committee, Deputy Premier Humberto Perez, president of the Central Planning Council, and members of the Cuban Government.

TALKS HELD WITH FRG COMMUNIST LEADERS IN BONN

FL131601 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1334 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] Bonn -- The Communist Parties of Cuba and the FRG have termed as very satisfactory their state of relations, based on proletarian internationalism and the most important current struggle, the struggle for peace.

Similarities noted in the examination of the two parties' situations were discussed during a meeting held by Herbert Mies, chairman of the German Communist Party, and Raul Valdes Vivo, member of Cuba's Communist Party Central Committee.

During the meeting, held this week in Dusseldorf, Mies referred to the West Germans' efforts for and German Communist Party's goal of more jobs and less missiles in the FRG.

INTERNATIONALIST CONTINGENT TO BUILD NEW AIRPORT

FL131558 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] The revolutionary leadership has tasked the internationalist construction contingent that was working in Grenada at the time of the imperialist aggression with the construction of important projects in Cuba.

Among the projects will be the building of a new international airport between Varadero and Matanzas, the widening of the highway between these two cities, and the development of a vast camping area along the cost north of Havana.

The 20th Anniversary of Giron Contingent held a meeting yesterday, Thursday, with government and party leaders in Varadero, where they were given detailed information on the new tasks. The contingent members were also told that as soon as the contingent begins to build the new airport, it will be called the Grenada Heroes Contingent.

Prior to beginning the construction of the airport and the four-lane highway, whose initial blueprints will be completed in the third quarter of this year, the contingent will be completed in the third quarter of this year, the contingent will begin work to enlarge the Puerto Escondido campgrounds, on the north coast of Havana. These campgrounds must be completed before the next tourist season.

One of the characteristics of the work to be carried out by this contingent, which is of an experimental nature, is that when the airport construction is started, the workers will live in an environment similar to that found abroad, under conditions of internationalism including moral and material incentives.

In closing the meeting, Jaime Crombet, member of the Central Committee Secretariat, said that he trusted that the contingent will know how to fulfill this mission in an exemplary fashion.

Later, the workers agreed to send a message to Fidel promising to fulfill the mission assigned to them, just as they did in Grenada.

SOLIDARITY RALLY FOR EL SALVADOR SCHEDULED

PA141818 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] A rally to show solidarity with the Salvadoran people will be held 15-20 January throughout Cuba, sponsored by the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples, according to an announcement made by Mario Rodriguez, first vice president of the Cuban institute, and FMLN representatives in Cuba. The event, which is scheduled to begin with a working session and to adjourn with a central ceremony, will be joined in by both Cuban and international organizations.

Jorge Rodriguez, FMLN representative in Cuba, referred to the current contradictions in the Salvadoran regime such as the fact that the elections scheduled there for 25 March are being prepared and directed by Washington.

Silvia Martinez, another member of the FMLN, offered a summary of the revolution's victorious actions against the regime in the last year, which concluded, she said, with the defeat of the enemy's U.S.-backed tactical military plans. She noted that though the Salvadoran people want peace, their morale is high and they have a fighting determination to face any U.S. intervention in the country.

'OUR AMERICA' COMMENTS ON C.A. ISSUES

Kissinger Commission Report

PA141547 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 13 Jan 84

["Our America" commentary]

[Excerpt] The report drafted by former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's commission, which provides recommendations for U.S. policy, merely supports President Reagan's position on Central America. The document, published by the U.S. press, emphasizes Ronald Reagan's views on the presumed East-West confrontation within the Central American conflict, a conflict considered to be a threat to U.S. interests.

The Kissinger commission, created by Reagan last August, recommends continued U.S. financing of the Nicaraguan counterrevolution and opposes an eventual political dialogue between the opposing forces in El Salvador. The document particularly stresses the military aspect, favoring an increased supply of war materiel to the Salvadoran regime, the strengthening of Honduran military capabilities, and an increased supply of weapons to Guatemala. The document recommends the immediate increase of military assistance to El Salvador, which will be based on the advice of Pentagon experts, who have estimated that $200 million will be allocated for this purpose.

The document also recommends the renewal of both technical security and police assistance for the Salvadoran regime. The report proposes annulling U.S. congressional laws that theoretically prohibit this assistance.

The document establishes the need to create the necessary funds for economic aid in Central America, estimated at $8 billion over a 5-year period. Kissinger commission sources noted that the provision of such funds would be viewed by Nicaragua as being linked to unacceptable political conditions.

It is evident that the commission, which was geared toward facilitating U.S. congressional agreements respecting Washington's policy in Central America, has drafted a document designed to support Ronald Reagan's Central American policy.

Pentagon 'Plans' in Honduras

PA132232 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 12 Jan 84

["Our America" commentary]

[Excerpt] The true situation of Honduras cannot be concealed. It is a highly militarized country with a bankrupt economy. This was confirmed by a recent statement by General Gustavo Alvarez, chief of the Honduran Armed Forces, at a meeting with ranking military chiefs and government officials. National security, General Alvarez said, is related to the economic and social development of the people. He said that if subversion is not stopped, it will be difficult to solve the problems of public health, education, housing, and employment suffered by the people.

The Honduran Army is increasingly involved in the aggressive U.S. plans in Central America, and currently it is one of the fundamental elements in the destabilization plans prepared by Washington against the Sandinist revolution in Nicaragua. Honduras' territory is, moreover, the scene of the training program carried out by the U.S. Pentagon for the repressive armies in the region. Salvadoran and Guatemalan troops are being trained in Honduran territory by U.S. militarymen who are experts in counterinsurgency.

At the same time, for almost a year now the Honduran Armed Forces have been participatin with U.S. troops in joint exercises that have been carried out in Honduras. The "Big Pine" maneuvers are an eloquent example. Although the "Big Pine II" maneuvers have not ended, the Honduran Army chiefs have announced that as of next June, their troops will participate in new military maneuvers with U.S. soldiers.

The U.S. Pentagon's plans in Honduras also include the construction and upgrading of airports in order to support the movement of U.S. troops in Central America. Work on this project will begin this month, according to agreements between the governments of the two countries.

DANIEL ORTEGA DISCUSSES HELICOPTER DOWNING

PA140642 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] Nicaraguan Junta Coordinator Daniel Ortega Saavedra has said in Managua that the report issued by the so-called Kissinger commission for Central America is designed to strengthen the U.S. interventionist policy in the region.

In El Salvador, the rebel station Radio Farabundo Marti said that the main recommendation contained in the report submitted to President Reagan by the commission headed by former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger is that the war and the genocide against the Salvadoran people be stepped up.

Those two macabre figures of Washington's interventionist policy boastfully wield their power against the Central American peoples, the station noted.

Meanwhile, Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra said that he hoped that the incident involving a U.S. helicopter that made an incursion into Nicaraguan airspace was not an act of provocation or a pretext for further military actions.

In an impromptu press conference granted after a meeting with Costa Rican officials, Ortega Saavedra reiterated that the helicopter was shot down as it overflew Nicaraguan airspace and was fleeing toward Honduras. He rejected a White House report stating that the helicopter was attacked on landing in Honduran territory. He added that the U.S. pilot killed in the incident is a victim of the aggressive policy to which Central America is subject, and that his death should be a warning to make Washington realize the need to stop the bloodshed in the region.

Ortega Saavedra said that Honduras is wrong to ask for a meeting of the OAS Permanent Council, because the Honduran Government is the one undermining Central American peace by lending itself to the aggressive U.S. policy against Nicaragua.

BERMUDA

SWAN APPOINTS TWO MINISTERS TO ENLARGED CABINET

FL140148 Bridgetown CANA in English 2223 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] Hamilton, Bermuda, Jan 13 (CANA) -- Bermuda's Premier John Swan has appointed two new ministers to an enlarged, 14-strong Cabinet, filling the vacant education post and splitting the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Community Affairs. As expected, Dr George Thomas, 46, has taken over as education minister from William Cox, who resigned his post on Tuesday saying he was standing down because the premier "would prefer to have someone else" take over the job. Dr Thomas, chairman of the island's Board of Education, was elected to Parliament in the general election last February when the ruling United Bermuda Party was returned to power with an increased majority.

Senator Gerald Simons, 36, a former president of the island's National Trust, has been appointed to the new post of minister of community and cultural affairs while Irving Pearman, formerly head of the combined ministry, will be minister of youth, sport, and recreation.

The changes, announced last night, have produced a racially balanced Cabinet, with seven whites and seven blacks. Previously there were eight whites and five blacks.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

CANADIAN MINISTER HOLDS TALKS, SEEKS TRADE

FL130208 Bridgetown CANA in English 2358 GMT 12 Jan 84

[By Rudi Williams]

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Jan 12 (CANA) -- Visiting Canadian External Relations Minister Jean-Luc Pepin today urged Trinidad and Tobago exporters to make better use of opportunities to get their goods into the Canadian market. Pepin said 95 percent of Canada's imports were free from tariffs, but Trinidad and Tobago sold only 18 million dollars (Can) worth of goods to Canada last year. This compared with Canadian exports of 140 million dollars (Can) to Trinidad and Tobago in the same year. "So you're free to invade," Pepin quipped as he spoke with reporters here.

In the previous year, Pepin said Canada exported 105 million dollars (Can) worth of goods to this oil-rich state, while exports from here to Canada reached 75 million dollars (Can), with oil accounting for 21 million dollars (Can). "We are not the greatest sinners," Pepin pleaded, stating that local exporters were "welcome to come and proselytize" Canadian buyers.

A planned meeting today between Pepin and Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister George Chambers was rescheduled for tomorrow, the final day of the Canadian minister's two-day visit. Pepin met today with External Affairs Minister Dr Basil Ince, with whom he discussed Grenada -- where U.S. troops landed October 25 to quell political disturbances last October -- bilateral trade, and the Caribbean Development Bank. Pepin said the Canadian Government had taken a similar stand to Trinidad and Tobago on the Grenada situation, namely that a "maximum effort" should have been made to prevent the use of force in resolving the crisis there. The Spice Island was plunged into chaos last October when the Armed Forces ousted Prime Minister Maurice Bishop in a bloody coup, which triggered an invasion by U.S. and Caribbean troops.

ENERGY MINISTER CITES AMOUNT LOST DUE TO STRIKE

FL131917 Bridgetown CANA in English 1842 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] Paramaribo, Suriname, Jan 13 (CANA) -- Suriname estimates it has lost the equivalent of nearly 28 million dollars (U.S.) as a result of continuing unrest in its important bauxite/alumina industry, Minister of Natural Resources and Energy Tjon Kie Sim said today.

The main bauxite plant here, the Suriname Aluminium Company (Suralco) closed indefinitely yesterday after the authorities failed to resolve an industrial dispute that triggered a strike at the company last December 19.

Tjon Kie Sim said Suriname, which gets some 80 per cent of its foreign exchange earnings from the bauxite/alumina sector, was losing about two million guilders -- the equivalent of 1.1 million dollars U.S. -- a day through the inactivity of the Suralco plant.

Production was suspended nearly four weeks after workers walked off their jobs to protest income tax increases due to become effective last January 1. The hikes were rescinded last week and Suriname's military-backed civilian government resigned, but the workers have since been calling for free elections, introduction of a constitution, and an end to military rule.

Army Commander Deysi Bouterse has been in charge here since a February 1980 coup that ousted the Henck Arron government.

Minister Tjon Kie Sim said the current industrial strife was an unfortunate development for Suriname, coming at a time when prices for bauxite and alumina on the world market were on the rise. "We must be careful that the 275 million guilders (1.80 guilders; one U.S. dollar) in tax and bauxite levies do not stop altogether," he declared.

The official SURINAME NEWS AGENCY (SNA) said today the country's revolutionary leadership met with Tjon Kie Sim, a union representing strikers, and the commission which negotiates bauxite agreements to seek a solution to the impasse. The outcome of the discussions was not clear, SNA said. But the agency quoted Commission Chairman Fred Derby, a leading trade unionist here, as saying that the Paranam Workers' Union was opposed to the closure of the Suralco plant.

Earlier Derby had said that whenever there was a problem at Paranam, the location of the Suralco plant, 20 miles from Paramaribo, management applied a certain pattern to bring about a solution, but in the present impasse the company had applied a different pattern, which "makes us believe that Suralco supports the (workers') actions."

Derby said the notice of closure of the operations at Paranam was sent only to hourly and weekly paid workers but not to the monthly staff. When the strike began everybody was involved, but now the hourly and weekly paid workers have become the victims of the action, he said.

The veteran trade unionist alleged that those who were responsible for distributing pamphlets -- calling for a return to democracy -- were closely connected to management.

Other Workers Join Strike

FL132358 Bridgetown CANA in English 2330 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] Paramaribo, Suriname, Jan 13 (CANA) -- Workers at private banks and insurance companies in this former Dutch colony joined strikes today aimed at toppling Suriname's left-wing military government.

Bauxite industry workers are leading demands for free elections, the introduction of a constitution, and an end to military rules.

The work stoppage began three weeks ago, when the government announced income tax increases from the beginning of the year. The tax increase was later cancelled and military strongman Deysi Bouterse forced the government to resign.

Suriname has already lost nearly 28 million dollars (U.S.) in foreign exchange earnings as a result of the industrial unrest in its vital bauxite and alumina industry, Minister of Natural Resources and Energy Minister Erik Tjon Kie Sim said today.

The main bauxite plant, the American-owned Suralco, closed indefinitely yesterday.

Suriname depends on bauxite exports for some 80 per cent of its foreign exchange earnings.